

# *ECHO*

5th Signal Command



DRAGON  
WARRIORS

AT WAR  
&  
TRANSFORMING

Summer 2005



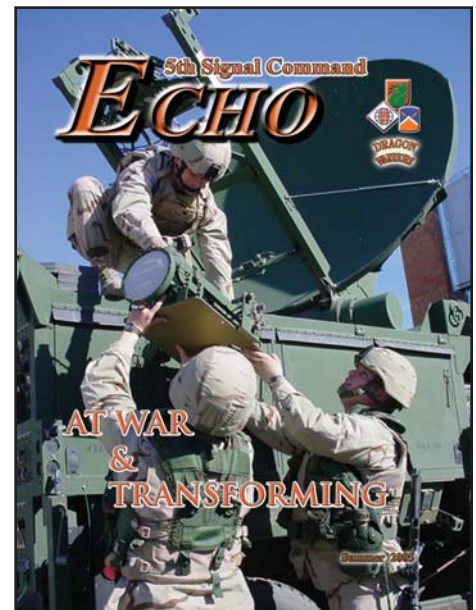
# In Tribute to Maj. Edward John Murphy

*November 14, 1968 to April 6, 2005*



SOUTHEAST Afghanistan -- An Army CH-47 Chinook carrying 18 passengers and crewmembers crashed in southeast Afghanistan killing all on board April 6, 2005. Maj. Edward John Murphy, 509th Signal Battalion, deputy J6 for CJTF-76, was one of the brave Soldiers lost in that crash.

## Front Cover



Spc. Damien Fugate, Spc. Matthew Evans, and Pfc. Gary Johnson of Task Force Lightning Phoenix Team set up their equipment. (Photo by U.S. Army Cpl. Sergey Batyrshin)

## Back Cover

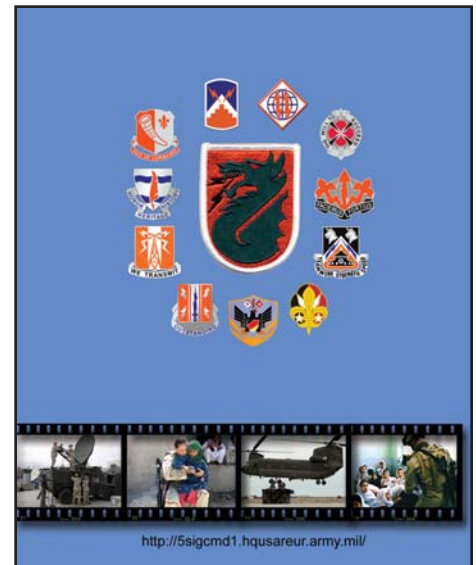


Photo 21: Task Force Lightning Soldiers from the 509th Signal Battalion's Phoenix Team out of Vicenza, Italy, and an ESP employee work on the Phoenix in Bagram, Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Cpl. Sergey Batyrshin)

Photo 22: U.S. Army Spc. Elizabeth Navarro, an information system analyst with the 44th Signal Battalion, Mannheim, Germany, embraces an Afgan girl. (Photo by U.S. Army Cpl. Sergey Batyrshin)

Photo 23: Task Force Lightning Soldiers from the 44th Signal Battalion conduct sling load operations. (Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Boyechko)

Photo 24: 44th Signal Battalion Soldier gives out school supplies while on humanitarian mission. (Photo by U.S. Army Cpl. Sergey Batyrshin)

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**Commander/Publisher**  
**Brig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett**  
**Chief, Public Affairs -- Monica Tullos**  
**Public Affairs Specialist/Editor -- William E. Triplett**



**Contributors:**  
**Headquarters Staff**  
**2nd Signal Brigade**  
**7th Signal Brigade**





## From the Commanding General



Brig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett

"USAREUR transformation is challenging, but necessary. It will make us a better Army in Europe—an Army that can fight and win our nation's wars while ensuring our Soldiers and families work and live in modern, world-class facilities."

Gen. B. B. Bell  
Commander U. S. Army Europe

## Up to the task of War and Transformation

**At War, while Transforming** . . . Young men and women, wearing our country's uniforms, remain engaged in the fight against terrorism. Their families are concerned about their safety and making the best of their loved ones' absence. Soldiers and civilians of 5th Signal Command are engaged in every phase of this fight. We have units at war, going to war, and reintegrating from war. As leaders we must stay focused on the human dimension of caring for our Soldiers' and Families' welfare, reconstitution of our equipment, and hard, realistic training to ensure our readiness. Meanwhile, we are engaged with our Army in transforming our theater network capabilities and structure to ensure information dominance in transforming to the warfighter.

**At War** . . . Soldiers of the 44th and 509th Signal Battalions, "Task Force Lightning," are well into their deployment, conducting command, control, communications, and computers (C4) missions in support of SETAF in Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom. The 509th deployed Single Shelter Switch Base Band Node (BBN) and new Tri-band satellite Terminals (Phoenix) teams to Bagram, Afghanistan and was realigned under the 44th Signal Battalion forming "Task Force Lightning." This downsized modular capability leverages tactical and commercial satellite enhancing the communications capability provided to the CJTF-76 Warfighters, and provides operational agility with enhanced

capabilities to enable battle command.

**Going to War** . . . Having just returned from deployment this past November, the 72nd Signal Battalion is once again preparing to return to Iraq in support of OIF. The battalion is currently reorganizing itself under the new Integrated Theater Signal Battalion (ITSB) structure, the first battalion to deploy as an ITSB providing increased modularity, digitization and broadband communications to the warfighter. The 72nd has taken the logical "next step" by organizing around the available Deployable Communications packages (DCP's) in support of their upcoming mission. The modular equipment synergizes the capabilities of the ITSB, streamlines the overall organization, enabling the 72nd to transform as they prepare for war. The 72nd will emerge from its transformational "go to war" efforts better postured for the next generation of the ITSB.

**Transforming the Enterprise** . . . Our fiber optic expansion partnerships and initiatives are the foundation to take "bandwidth out of the equation" and enable our command post within theater, while enhancing reach back for deployed forces. Establishing the fiber ring architecture throughout Europe has provided enhanced capacity, diversity, and survivability, while ensuring network protection and recovery. A very important effort in conjunction with the fiber infrastructure is the Installation

Information Infrastructure Modernization Program-Europe (I3MP) which takes the Global Information Grid capability down to the user. I3MP will allow the convergence of networks, architectures, and technologies. Concurrently, we are consolidating all servers under area processing centers and installing a top-level architecture IP Security Stack designed to improve information security.

**Families engaged** . . . Standing by their Soldiers. When talking to families you find out very quickly that their Soldier is either deployed, just returned, or is getting ready for what tends to be a second deployment. It never ceases to amaze me how strong and committed our families are as they stand watch in our communities, helping one another personally get through the fears and challenges of deployments. Our Family Readiness Groups are fully engaged, taking care of our Soldiers and families each and everyday. Indeed, our families are proud of their Soldiers and are proud to play a vital role in the War on Terrorism.

Let me close by saying that I'm particularly grateful to the Soldiers, civilians and family members of 5th Signal Command. As the change of command approaches, I would like to express my personal appreciation and thanks to each and every one of you for what you have done for me, our Army, and our Nation!

"Dragon Warriors,  
Any Mission, Anywhere!"

Carroll F. Pollett  
Brigadier General, USA  
Commanding



## From the Command Sergeant Major



Command Sgt. Maj. Donna K. Mitchell

"To truly be successful, transformation must build on those enduring values and rich traditions of the Army. We will keep the best of the past, while transforming to be better able to meet the challenges of the future."

*Dr. Francis J. Harvey  
Secretary of the Army*

## Tradition remains strong during transformation

Webster defines 'tradition' as an inherited, established, or customary pattern of thought, action, or behavior.

Since the beginning of the Army, military traditions have played a vital role in every aspect of Army life. From the parade fields and battlefields, to the patches we wear on our uniforms and the colors we carry, traditions have built unit morale and esprit de corps. It has also set up strong bonds of professional and personal friendships, and patterns of behavior that maintain high standards and improve the military way of life.

I recently visited the 160th Signal Brigade in Kuwait. I took their original set of colors home. The 160th Signal Brigade, a unit that was first constituted in March 1945 and had once belonged to 5th Signal Command is a unit with a long eventful history. It has stood in France, Germany, Texas, and California and now headquartered in Kuwait is spread throughout Southwest Asia. Throughout the years, it took part in World War II and Vietnam, 160th Signal Brigade played a vital communications role in Germany before the fall of the iron curtain, and now plays a significant part in commercializing communications in Iraq and Afghanistan. During a repatriation ceremony on April 7 the original 160th Signal Brigade unit colors returned home and the old retired colors now hang in a prominent place of honor in the brigade headquarters in Kuwait.

The 7th Signal Brigade change of com-

mand also marked a place in history. After the colors were passed between commanders and then returned to the Command Sergeants Major, 'Keeper of the Colors,' the outgoing commander bid farewell and the new commander humbly accepted the responsibility and the challenge given to him. Arrayed across the parade field were the 7th Signal Brigade units and partnership units from the 289th Fernmelde Battalion of the Germany Army and 40th Signal French Regiment of the French Army with colors flying in front of each formation. The Semaphores, another tradition of the Army used for signaling in our previous wars, signaled the commands in true signal history and tradition.

The 509th Signal Battalion conducted its change of command on the same day that families were saying good-bye to their loved ones. As the Soldiers met their new commander, they were loading up to make history again on their deployment to Afghanistan. A few weeks later when the 509th Signal Battalion was officially realigned under the 2nd Signal Brigade a patch ceremony was conducted with Soldiers, civilians, and families to formally recognize the event. Soldiers put 2nd Signal Brigade patches on their left shoulders and the civilians proudly displayed the 2nd Signal Brigade pin.

All these events, full of history and tradition, are often a closure in time, a mark in the history of the military and a visual picture of pride and patriotism.

With the onset of transformation,

realignment of our formations, and retiring of the colors for others, will our traditions be lost in the change?

The one constant since the beginning of our Army has been change.

Throughout our long and changing history, our military traditions and heraldry have survived and prospered.

Dr. Francis J. Harvey, secretary of the Army, stated in one of his speeches, "To me, there is no institution in our country that has a richer tradition than the Army. A tradition that is older than the Republic itself. The tradition of the long gray line. The tradition of bravery as displayed at Omaha and Utah beaches and the Battle of the Bulge. The tradition of courage as demonstrated at Okinawa and Guadalcanal, and most recently, at Fallujah. The tradition that has preserved the peace and freedom of our country for more than 229 years."

Just as units of action enable the predictability of one's future and keep us together for longer periods of time, it will also enrich our tradition and bond our formations together more tightly than ever before.

We raise the flag with reveille. We lower her in the evening at retreat and hear the sound of taps in the evening. You can be assured that our long history of tradition will not be lost, but enriched by the heroic Soldiers transforming to the new challenges of today and in the future. "Dragon Warriors, Any Mission, Anywhere!"

Donna K. Mitchell  
Command Sergeant Major  
5th Signal Command



# Transformation of signal forces in Europe

By  
**Lt. Col. Michelle M. Fraley**  
(G7, 5th Signal Command)

During this period of increased operations, U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) is transforming to more flexible command structures and achieving knowledge dominance with emerging technology. The challenge is to sustain the current OPTEMPO, while simultaneously transforming to the future force structure, executing European base closures and expansion to the East. As our leadership at the National level make key decisions, our leaders and

staff within 5th Signal Command continue to work closely with the Global Rebasing and Restructuring (GR2) division, within the USAREUR battle staff, to shape the transformation requirements in Europe.

## The Big Picture

U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) is rebasing and restructuring its forces to support DoD and inter-service initiatives. The changing face of USAREUR will support the Army's new modular construct, and position units to support rotational training and manning at forward operating sites

(FOSs) and forward operating locations (FOLs).

The USAREUR commander released details of the ongoing re-stationing and rebasing plan. In his April 7 "Bell Sends" article, he characterizes the restructuring of the major unit headquarters as follows: "USAREUR and V Corps headquarters will merge to become a single headquarters, called USAREUR and Task Force 5 (UR&TF5), performing Army Service Component Command functions for USEUCOM, while providing a deployable warfighting headquarters capable of JTF operations for combatant commanders. We will also establish one or



## Signal ITSB Enhancements



**Data Communications Package**



**Phoenix Satellite System**



**Tactical Messaging System**

5<sup>th</sup> Signal Command 'Dragon Warriors!'  
Any Mission, Anywhere!

Figure 1 - ITSB Enhancements



two small, light, and mobile JTF-capable headquarters ready for contingencies around the globe.”

## The Signal Picture

Every Soldier, civilian employee, contractor, and family member in the Signal Regiment will be touched by the US Army Transformation. With the restructuring and rebasing to CONUS of V Corps units, Department of the Army will realign signal assets in support of the transformation, particularly the development of UA signal companies to support brigade combat teams (BCTs). In Europe, the 5th Signal Command headquarters will form the nucleus of the new 5th Theater Network Command (TNC).

Structurally, the TNC will have embedded theater tactical signal capabilities and operational base capabilities to provide expeditionary communications to a task force. Elements of the tactical signal brigade will be aligned with deployed operational command posts, as well as provide direct support to enabling units of action (UAs) without embedded signal companies. The 72nd Signal Battalion will spearhead transformation as it stands up as an Integrated Theater Signal Battalion (ITSB) in Oct 05 followed by 44th Signal Battalion in Apr 06. The challenge is to rely on the current equipment while integrating emerging technology to meet future force structure. Concurrently, the tactical battalions are being provided technology upgrades, such as the fielding of the Phoenix satellite to replace legacy terminals and provide increased bandwidth capability.

In a typical deployment scenario, the TNC commander will deploy as the UEy G6 and Theater Tactical Signal Brigade (TTSB) commander, while the organization remaining will command and control (C2) the operational base in USAREUR. The operational base capability will consist of battalions that will be aligned strategically throughout EUCOM to provide sanctuary and reachback communications support to the warfighters.



Figure 2 - TNC Alignment of Forces

## The Enterprise Effort

The operational base has tremendous challenges with the technological advancement and upgrades to the infostucture. Transformation of base infostucture continues to revolutionize our business practices. The Fiber Optic Network (FON) in the Central Region has been completely funded. Concurrently, the Installation, Information, Infrastructure Modernization Program (I3MP) upgrades our outside fiber/cable plant, extends the GIG bandwidth capabilities to buildings with new routers and switches, and in some cases, with Inside Cable Distribution System (ICDS) and Protected Distribution Systems (PDS). The upgrade of our backbone encryption devices has increased SIPR bandwidth and access throughout the theater. Active Directory, Server Consolidation and CAC/PKI have improved our security posture while empowering our IT workforce to offer services to the desktop. These projects effectively reduce the requirement for maintenance and manpower, while substantially increasing reliability and overall performance.

## The Future

With the ongoing effort to transform the force structure, while implementing new expeditionary training capabilities, our mission as IT professionals is more vital than ever. We must effectively manage the closing of communications facilities during transformation, while establishing or expanding capability in many locations across Europe. Just as critical is to maintain tactical signal capabilities through deployments and missions. Most important during this transformation is our mission to maintain the required degree of high-quality information and communications support to the warfighter and take care of our workforce.

Gen. Omar N. Bradley once said, "Congress can make a General, but only communications can make him a commander." This statement is as true today as it was then. Our commanders rely heavily on the IT professionals in our formations to provide uninterrupted critical battle command communications. Our goal is to stay focused on quality support to warfighters, while taking care of Soldiers, civilians, and families.

# Moving toward the future



Photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee

Soldiers, in photos left and right, from the 44th Signal Battalion are learning how to deploy and set up a satellite that is part of the Traffic Terminal package they will use in Afghanistan.

## European Signal Regiment - Providing the warfighter high-quality communications for the GWOT

By  
**Capt. Benjamin Sangster**  
(509th Signal Battalion)

**S**oldiers, contractors, and equipment began arriving at the 509th Signal Battalion in Vicenza, Italy November 2004 for testing and training on the Base Band Node (BBN) and Phoenix satellite systems.

These systems, unlike most legacy communications packages, are small, reliable, and capable of communications and automation support for the warfighter, with the added convenience of greater

maneuverability. They are symbols of the future of our signal regiment.

The BBN, a high mobility multi-purpose wheeled vehicle (HMMWV)-based system, provides the frontline commander direct access to key networks, including the LWN-Unclassified and the LWN-Classified. It is also capable of interfacing with coalition wide area networks, which enables video teleconferencing and voice services with coalition partners.

The second system, the Phoenix Terminal, is a HMMWV-based transmission system in two M1113 enhanced-capacity vehicles. One vehicle contains the Phoenix terminal and the second vehicle contains the mobile power unit. Each Phoenix terminal is configured to support hub terminal operations and contains the equipment required to support a network consisting of up to four tactical satellite links, orderwire communications, and support beacon tracking for two antennas. The terminal uses an integral 2.4-meter dish and an external lightweight high-

gain X-band antenna (LHGXA). The integral antenna can operate at C, X, and Ku bands while the LHGXA operates at X band. The Phoenix terminal interfaces with both current military and commercial communications systems.

Elements of 7th Signal Brigade executed a new equipment test and destination acceptance test during January and February 2005 for the BBN and Phoenix terminal. The end results were two combat-ready communications packages prepared to deploy with the Southern European Task Force in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The future of the signal regiment is here, and it is already providing the warfighter high-quality communications in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

*Editor's note: The BBN/Phoenix equipment and team deployed in support of CJTF-76 to Afghanistan in February.*



# Deploying Soldiers train with newest technology

**Story and Photo by  
Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee**  
(7th Signal Brigade Public Affairs Office)

**T**echnology is changing at a rapid pace all over the world. Electronics are getting faster, smaller and more convenient and so is equipment for the Army Signal Corps.

For their first time ever, Soldiers of the 44th Signal Battalion trained with some of this new equipment, called traffic terminals, in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan.

Engineers from the Battle Command Battle Lab (BCBL) out of Ft. Gordon, Georgia and Communications Electronic Command (CECOM) out of Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey came here to train the Soldiers.

Remember in the 1980s when cellular phones were the size of briefcases? Now they are extremely small and better equipped than cordless phones and they allow the user consistent communications with ease of movement from place to place. That is one of the ideas behind the traffic terminals.

A more compact satellite package, compared to what the Army has used in the past, allows communication teams to move quickly and efficiently from one site to the next but still allows them to provide Internet access, secure phone lines, and a new technology that allows warriors to use IP addresses to talk on the phone, similar to using the computer network to make phone calls instead of the old push-to-talk radios.

"In my opinion, this technology is what the future Army is going to be," said Sgt. 1st Class Richard Ray, HHC, 44th Signal Bn. "All the big vans and other

bulky equipment will be gone because this equipment does everything we need."

"A few years ago, the Stryker Brigades identified a communication problem between the battalion and the brigade. Because of distance, terrain and other factors some of the radios they were using just wouldn't cut it. They needed a wide-band communications capability," said Barry Kruse, BCBL engineer. "This technology was identified and fielded to solve those communications issues."

Not only will the equipment perform the necessary functions, it can be set up and operational in a fraction of the time.

"Military standard set-up and operational time with this equipment is two hours," said Don Claussen, CECOM special operations engineer. "But many of the teams can do it in less than 45 minutes."

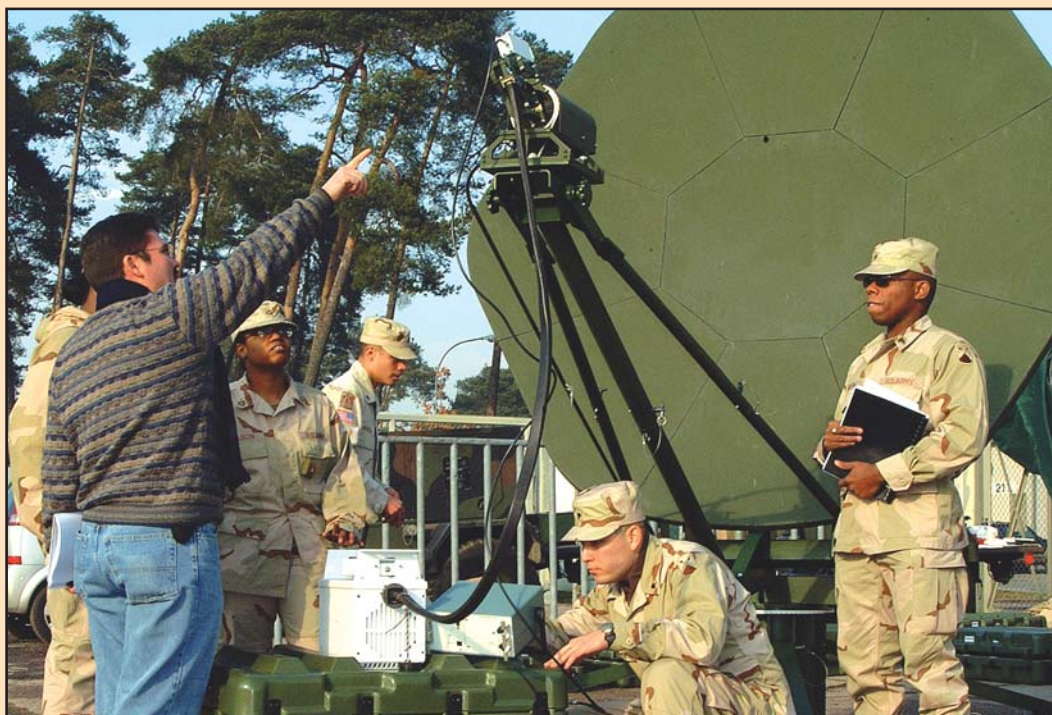
In the past this same operation could take up to five days, according to Ray. Compared to the bulkier equipment the Army was using only a year ago, each of

the new traffic terminals is comprised of only a Linkway modem, Cisco 1760 VPN, KG-175, Cisco 3725 and UPS in a transit case with a 1.5-meter satellite dish. This equipment, originally fielded April 2004, was in use in Afghanistan by the 125th Signal Battalion.

The 44th Signal Bn Soldiers who trained on this new equipment are ready to put their skills to the test.

"This set-up is a lot different than what I have worked with on prior deployments, but it is a lot easier to use and a lot faster to deploy," said Sgt. Alvaro Madrigal, Company B, 44th Signal Bn. "I will be connected to the warriors down-range. Where before I would set up an antenna wherever and shoot line of sight to another antenna. Now we provide direct access to the satellite for the customer."

He added, "I have learned a lot and feel confident about using this new equipment during our mission in Afghanistan."



**An engineer from the Battle Command Battle Lab out of Ft. Gordon, Georgia trains 44th Signal Battalion Soldiers on traffic terminals in preparation for their deployment to Afghanistan.**

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee

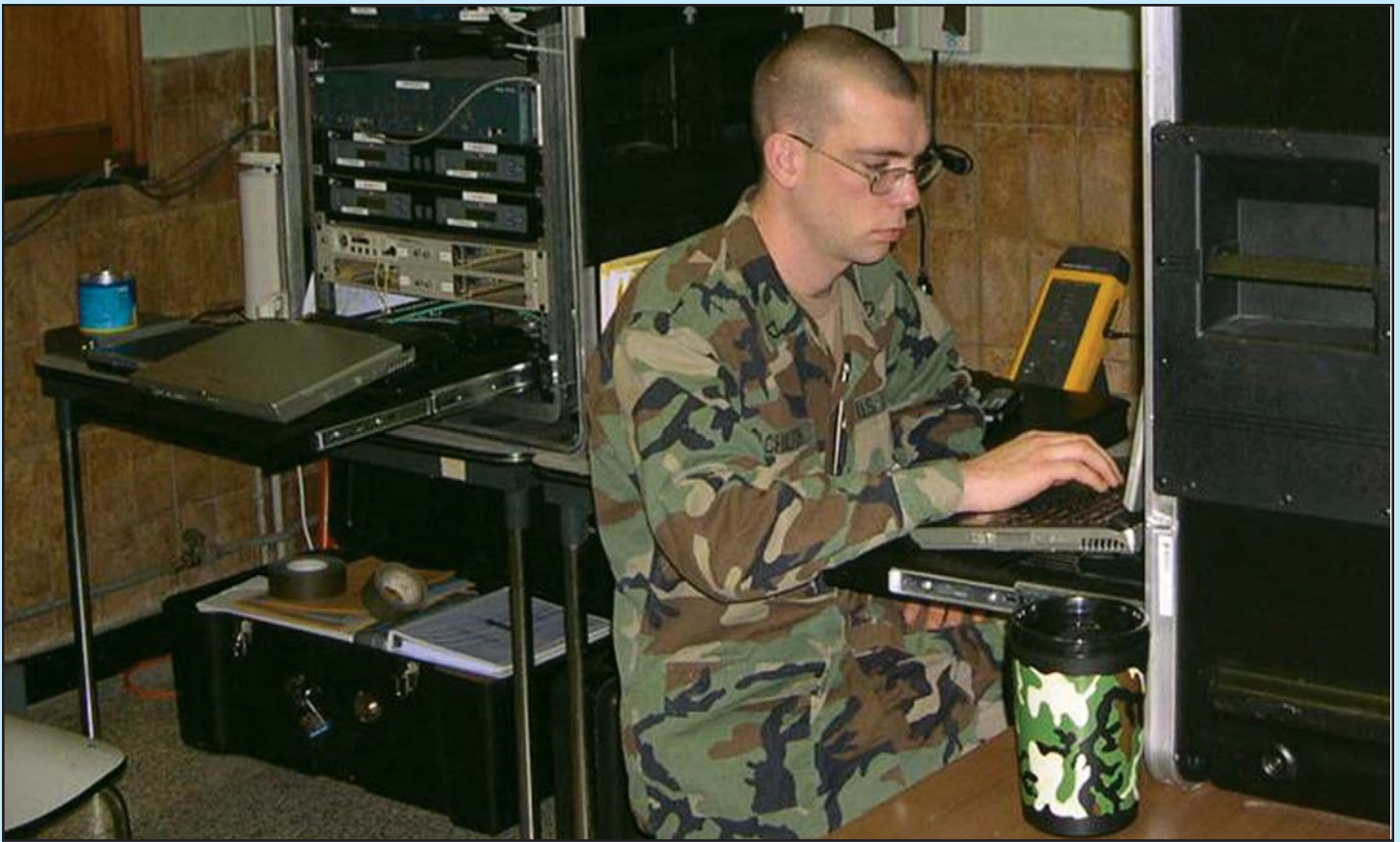


Photo provided by 43rd Signal Battalion

Pfc. Christopher Chilton, 43rd Signal Battalion, configures DCP-S nodes during Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 in Antwerp, Belgium.

# Future of DCP-S is lighter, faster, more professional

By  
**1st Lt. Matthew Parish**

*(Command Group, 43rd Signal Battalion)*

**Greg Knutson**

*(Network Service Center, 52nd Signal Battalion)*

From Croatia to Normandy and points between, the 2nd Signal Brigade's Deployable Communications Package - Strategic (DCP-S) teams have provided U.S. Army Europe units with mission-critical network services that ensured mission accomplishment. The DCP-S was developed by 5th Signal Command after reviewing the lessons learned from Operation Desert Storm and the challenges of the Kosovo and Stabilization Forces deployments in the 1990s. It was realized that large tactical footprints were not always the right solution for tomorrow's mission needs.

The DCP-S is a transportable, modular communications package that provides a deployed unit with classified and unclassified LandWarNet, and secure video telecommunications services that can be customized to meet specific mission needs. Typical DCP-S missions include fort-to-port, unique military communications in remote locations, and supporting forces for the Global War on Terrorism.

With teams based out of Germany, Belgium, and Italy, deployment can be achieved within 24 hours of notice. The DCP-S teams have proven themselves outstanding and reliable for the past six years.

To remain on the cutting edge of technology and the U.S. military operating tempo, the DCP-S program requires updating current systems and reducing the total size and weight of the equipment. The end-state will allow a team to travel with its

equipment by commercial or military transport to anywhere in the world. "Based on modern technology it only makes sense to make the package more compact for ease of deployment," said Ron Dishman, assistant S3, 43rd Signal Battalion.

The package is reduced from its current nine containers with a total weight of 1,274 pounds to two containers below 200 pounds. The future DCP-S will continue to provide the same capabilities and services to customers as the current one does. The advantage is a much smaller footprint and more professional teleconferencing ability. The goals for the DCP-S program in the future are to continue the high degree of technical and professional customer service, to exceed internal standards of deployable abilities, speed of delivery, and technological efficiency.



# 7th Signal Brigade goes multi-functional

By  
**Rasheed Diallo**

(Force Modernization Officer, 7th Signal Brigade)

The first Army units to formally transition to the new Integrated Theater Signal Battalion (ITSB) organizational structure are the 44th and 72nd Signal Battalions of 7th Signal Brigade.

The transition takes place in fiscal year 2006; however, transformation began during fiscal year 2003 when the 44th and 72nd Signal Battalions, formerly classified as an area and composite signal battalion, transitioned to the interim Theater Tactical Signal Battalion (TTSB) structure.

The legacy structure was extremely cumbersome with six separate elements within the brigade, requiring significant task organization efforts within all six capabilities of the brigade. There were few habitual relationships, and Soldiers were always working with new teams.

The new design combines all these elements into two battalions to provide a multi-functional structure. This significantly reduces the need to task organize to accomplish an operational mission. It reflects the train-as-you-fight/organize-as-you-fight philosophy and alleviates the problems of the old structure: task organizing from multiple units to form a single communications node to enable warfighting within an enclave.

The National Military Strategy stresses the need to respond to a full spectrum of crises. The ITSB provides voice and data switching, tactical satellite (TAC-SAT), Troposcatter (TROPO), and line-of-sight (LOS) abilities in a modular, capabilities-based structure.

The ITSB is a product of Department of the Army's guidance to make expeditionary signal more relevant for the future. It is a perfect example of the organizational design articulated in Joint Vision 2020. It provides a multi-function-

al tactical theater signal capability that can easily be scaled and tailored to meet any joint operation with minimal task organization, resulting in enhanced unit cohesion.

"ITSB formalizes what we've been trying to do for several years now on our own. It gives us the personnel, equipment and doctrine necessary to build complete network systems across our area of operations," said Chief Warrant Officer Jim Riedmueller, the brigade systems integration officer.

The 72nd Signal Battalion deployed as a TTSB to Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom and showed that the modularity and scalability functions proved to be very effective and applicable. The battalion provided support to the Marines with LOS assemblages and on another mission with voice and data communications.

The ITSB reorganization creates a leaner, more responsive force that provides command, control, communications, and computers (C4) support to enable the flow of information for decision-makers. It also provides a means of rapid, reliable dissemination of data to appropriate echelons of command, streamlining internal command and control. It eliminates ad hoc task organization and puts the various communications systems needed to provide C4 services to the warfighter under a common chain of command. It provides LandWarNet classified and unclassified services, secure video-conferencing, Defense Switched Network, secure red phone, and TROPO and reach-back services through mobile TACSAT terminals.

"The big benefit to ITSB is that it gives us what we need to create commercial-type networks across our area of responsibility," said Master Sgt. Scott Pauley, noncommissioned officer in

charge of the Systems Integration Branch. "The deployed headquarters we support will no longer be single threaded to the Global Information Grid, but part of a wide area network that we provide."

The ITSB provides a robust and versatile theater-level signal capability for force-projection operations. It enables operational agility, organizational versatility, and stability to conduct high-tempo operations without extensive task organization or loss of unit cohesion.

The ITSB supports the tenets of the Army Vision:

**Deployable:** Ready to respond to immediate operational requirements, with light packages (reducing lift requirements) deployable within 24 hours.

**Agile:** Supports a full spectrum of multi-dimensional operations, and capable of transitioning from stability and support operations to warfighting and back again.

**Versatile:** The multi-functional nature allows for the building of scalable and tailorable contingency packages with minimal adjustments (task organization) in the least amount of time. A multi-functional structure that is significantly more adaptable to change than a functional structure.

**Survivable:** The ITSB significantly reduces inter- and intra-battalion task organization, resulting in improved training, chain-of-command continuity, and team cohesion; organized as we fight.

**Sustainable:** It is not an experimental force structure. Trained Soldiers operate, maintain, and deploy with all organic equipment.

The implementation of ITSB changes forever the manner in which the signal regiment operates for the warfighter. And the Soldiers of the 7th Signal Brigade are leading the way.

**"The big benefit to ITSB is it gives us what we need to create commercial-type networks ..."**

*Master Sgt. Scott Pauley*

# 2nd Signal Brigade expands mission set

By  
**Lt. Col. Lewis Naumchik**  
*(Command Group, 2nd Signal Brigade)*

The Communications Simulation Operations Center (CSOC) and 2nd Signal Brigade are leading the way enabling the warfighting battle command. Beginning with the exercise Unified Endeavor (UE), 2nd Signal is engaged in a new mission of preparing warfighters by challenging their communications ability for downrange deployment.

Synchronized with deployment exercises like UE, this expanded set includes the 6981st Civilian Support Group cable installation to establish exercise local area networks, and the 69th Signal Battalion with its Network Operations and Security Center supporting the wide area network and warfighters to their desktop. Augmentation from across the brigade serves as response cells to the exercise training audience and orchestrating the entire effort is the CSOC, led by Col. Robert Ferrell, commander, 2nd Signal Brigade.

This January, UE was the final validation exercise for the Southern European Task Force and 5th Signal Command's own 44th Signal Battalion prior to their rotation to support Operation Enduring Freedom. As a state-of-the-art simulation exercise, it broke new ground providing scenario-driven environments so realistic participants felt they were in Afghanistan.

**Viktor Mueller, Leon Ekman, and Uwe Mewes, 6981st Civilian Support Group unload fiber optic cable at Grafenwöhr, Germany.**



It also validated the needs for brigade support. As Lt. Col. Mike Kell, commander, 69th Signal Battalion noted, "UE really solidified our communications support mission to the warfighter and how we'll continue to do business here at Grafenwöhr."

The brigade's focal point for this effort is the CSOC, comprised of members from throughout 5th Signal Command, U.S. Army Europe G3 Information Management Division, Seventh Army Training Command Directorate of Simulations (Forward), and the joint Warrior Preparation Center. It serves as the hub of activity tracking, coordinating, and sometimes deconflicting the vast array of complex communications requirements 24 hours a day. As the apex of the exercise pyramid, they work through circuit provisioning and routing issues, power support, tactical and simulation interfaces, server updates, and a thousand more details, with the sole purpose of keeping communications live for exercise participants. To manage this myriad of details, standing guidance from Ferrell is to "Know the master gunners for each area, so you can get the right



**Michael Weber, 6981st Civilian Support Group, terminates fiber optic cable to patch panels at Building 1026 in Grafenwöhr, Germany.**

people involved and get issues resolved."

This successful formula became the template for V Corps and the 22nd Signal Brigade's ongoing deployment preparation that began with Victory Focus in March. Under the CSOC, there was a seamless tie between the 22nd Signal Brigade's tactical network, long haul exercise circuits, and the theater's global information grid.

As the exercise apex, the CSOC is more than a monitoring center. Noted by Ferrell, "It's operationalized to anticipate and proactively resolve any communications or simulation impact to training for the warfighter." In this regard, the CSOC and 2nd Signal Brigade are leading the way enabling the warfighting battle command.

Photos Provided by 2nd Signal Brigade





The 39th Signal Battalion sets up the first Area Processing and break/fix centers in Europe as part of the Task Force Enterprise Services program.

# First Area Processing, Break/Fix Centers launched in Europe

By  
Maj. Benjamin P. Greene  
Maj. Thomas H. Folse  
(Command Group, 39th Signal Battalion)

The 39th Signal Battalion continues to lead 5th Signal Command and the U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) in establishing the first Area Processing Center (APC) and break/fix centers in Europe. The launching of the APC and break/fix centers in March are mission-essential steps toward achieving Army enterprise infrastructure transformation goals in theater.

The APC and break/fix centers are elements of the overall program called Task Force Enterprise Services (TFES). TFES

leverages improved infrastructure and new hardware, software, and support procedures that will transform the way we do business today into a centrally managed enterprise solution for USAREUR. The consolidation of servers and new enterprise service procedures relies heavily on the Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program, a Department of Defense-funded program designed to improve bandwidth capabilities between facilities.

The transformation also includes baselining desktop systems to ensure that each user's system can support new software, which can be updated using these new remote administrative support procedures.

For its customers in the 80th Area

Support Group, TFES alters the way 39th provides support by replacing local help-desk functions with an enterprise service support desk in Germany that remotely provides initial Tier I support. If a solution cannot be cleared by telephone, the support desk in Germany will open an automated trouble ticket to be passed down to the nearest break/fix center for action. The 39th Signal Battalion will establish break/fix centers in Brussels, Schinnen, Chievres, and at the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) to provide Tier II, hands-on support to its customers.

Finally, server consolidation into the APC in the BENELUX provides the enterprise customer service solution to storage, maintenance, and protection of data.

Combining enhanced hardware, software, infrastructure, and support procedures, the 39th Signal Battalion is leading the way transforming network and enterprise services into a cohesive enterprise solution supporting the European Command's integration into the Global Information Grid.

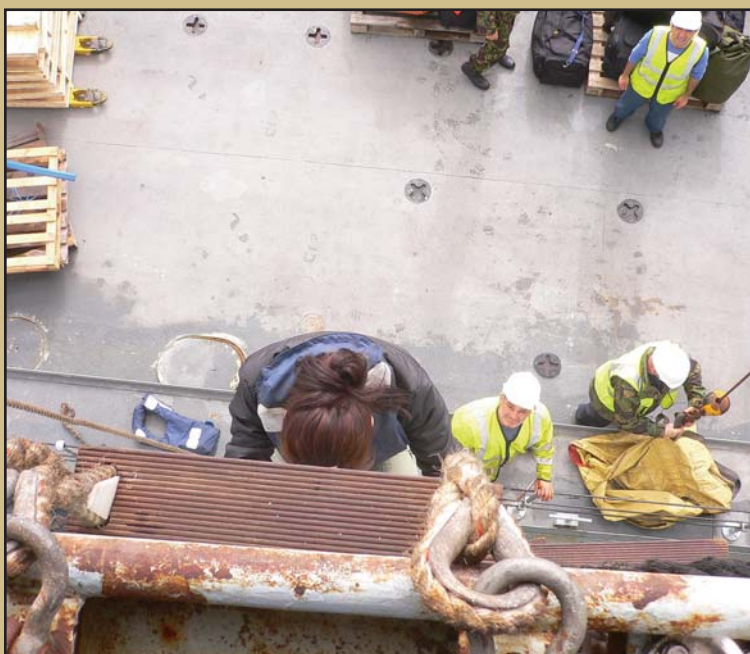


Photo by Darby Zettile

Jennifer Cruz, G7 engineer uses a rope-ladder to disembark the HMS Invincible, a NATO warship.



# G7 empowering warfighters



Photo provided by G7

Kevin Straley's contributions to the Emergency Response Team enable the USAREUR Commanding General to communicate Anytime, Anywhere.

By  
**Lt. Col. Michelle M. Fraley**  
(G7, 5th Signal Command)

Whether it is aboard the HMS Invincible, on an aircraft as team members of the Emergency Response Team (ERT), in Grafenwöhr replicating the warfighters network, or providing Tier III support to DRSN fly-away; the G7's project managers, engineers and installers truly exemplify "Any Mission, Anywhere!" Many visitors to 5th Signal Command ask, "What is the G7 directorate?" A simple answer to that question is with the people of the G7... 5th Signal Command's tools of change, and as such a major factor in the command's ability to





Photo provided by HMS Invincible

Her Majesty's Royal Navy ship, the HMS Invincible, is a NATO warship.



Photo by Darby Zettie

Michael Taylor (left) from G6, and U.S. Navy Petty Officer Rachael Boss (configuring secure terminal equipment) with NATO team on board the HMS Invincible supporting Noble Javelin 2005, a live training exercise.

enable the warfighter.

Whenever U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) or U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) have a new information requirement or need emergency assistance G7 is called into action. One recent emergency requirement was to enable a U.S. Army general officer with Secert (U.S. only) voice and data capability aboard Her Majesty's Royal Navy ship (HMS) Invincible, a NATO warship, as the commander of Deployable Joint Task Force (DJTF) and NATO's JFC Naples, during Exercise Nobel Javelin 2005. To enable this warfighter, the G7 engineers and USAREUR G6 action officers designed and tested a solution consisting of a specially configured, data port equipped, secure terminal equipment (STE) to encrypt the voice and data. The STE was connected to International Maritime Satellite (INMARSAT) and military satellite (MILSAT) terminals on board the HMS Invincible. Many technical and security difficulties were encountered including equipment incompatibilities and electromagnetic interference from various ship systems. G7 engineers spent many days aboard the Invincible while it was in port at Portsmouth, UK, and while it was

at sea resolving these issues. The mission was finally accomplished while the Invincible was off the coast of Cyprus.

A second emergency requirement was to develop and field a system to provide command-and-control capabilities anywhere within USAREUR. G7 engineers and project managers with USAREUR G6 planned the installation and implementation of the Vanguard "Flyaway" system for the USAREUR commanding general's Emergency Response Team. Connectivity is established by using an INMARSAT M4, which is connected to the strategic infrastructure via ISDN. The ERT personnel are on a two-hour recall capable of responding to contingency missions within the USAREUR area of operation. The system provides the commander the ability to assess a crisis situation and establish an interim command and control center. The team reports to the Crisis Action Team (CAT) at USAREUR and the deputy commanding general/chief of staff of USAREUR.

The requirements vary from one exercise to another; however, the G7 engineers, installers and program managers take great pride in ensuring our warfighters get a functional state-of-the-art infor-

mation technology environment. Their efforts cover long-haul circuits from Fort Leavenworth to bring simulation applications; local circuits to ensure stimulation of the ABCS applications at any command post; and fiber, router, and encryption infrastructure to provide SIPR, NIPR, CENTRIX, CRONOS and/or IWS access.

Every day something significant happens in the USEUCOM area of responsibility, and rest assured that there are G7 Soldiers and civilian employees behind the scenes. They enable the warfighter with more bandwidth, higher transmission speed, and increased capability.



Photo by Darby Zettie

HMS Invincible docked at Portsmouth for loading equipment.

# Alternative satellite technology expands X-band capabilities

Story and photos by  
Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee

(Public Affairs Office, 7th Signal Brigade)

Efficient communications are the cornerstone of an effective military force, and the rate at which the information is exchanged could be critical to mission success.

To provide the military an alternative to the saturated Defense Satellite Communications System network, XTAR put into orbit the world's first satellite developed for commercial X-band services called XTAR-EUR.

The premise is to provide a high-power, high-bandwidth satellite to the government that exploits its legacy Xband systems while providing significantly more power and throughput.

Representatives from four commercial companies involved in this technology came to Mannheim, April 11-15, to test and show the abilities of this equipment with the 7th Signal Brigade.

The results of the validation conducted were incredible according to Cor Westerhoff, XTAR vice president of programs and operations.

"The results have exceeded our wildest expectations," he said just after the group was told the system peaked at an unheard-of 105 Mbps. "What we have just done would be like taking a Volkswagen's top speed and increasing it to the speed of an F-18 jet."

This advancement could change the way signaleers work if the government wants to use the system.

"The success here shows that it is possible to support with one dish what we needed five or more dishes to do in Kuwait" said Chief Warrant Officer Jim Riedmueller, 7th Signal Bde. "Our job is all about customer support, and to provide the services the Warfighter needs today, it needs a lot of bandwidth. If the DoD adopts this as a solution, it would revolutionize our capabilities - we would be postured to support any foreseeable future requirement."



Sgt. Eugene Breckenridge, Company C, 44th Signal Battalion, and Bill Campbell out of Fort Gordon, monitor the capabilities of the program at the Funari Barracks Systems Integration Branch April 13.

The demonstration began by taking standard antenna and system components from Army inventory and making slight changes to exploit the unique features of

the XTAR satellite. The modified parts were installed into the AN/TSC-85C provided by the 44th Signal Battalion of the 7th Signal Bde. Harris Corporation and

L3 Communications West provided the parts, with XTAR and PM WIN-T providing the support and logistics needed to conduct the test.

"The key here is that we are taking commercial off-the-shelf equipment with a minimum hardware investment at a low cost but yet, yielding high performance and increasing our capabilities more than 25 fold," said Westerhoff.

In the eyes of all involved, the demonstration was a success.

"We proved we could take hardware from the 1970s and could update it to current technology," said Dennis Evanchik, PM-WIN T, project leader. "This is a large leap for our field."



This AS-4429 antenna, a 16-foot satellite dish used for the test, was provided by the 44th Signal Battalion.



# JRTC goes purple

By

**Eric J. Armstrong**

*(Command Group, 2nd Signal Brigade)*

**Y**es, you heard that right; the Regional Training Center is "Going Purple!" What does that mean for the Soldiers and civilians who have experienced one of the newest, most versatile training opportunities for information technology (IT) skill training? For one thing, they may soon be sharing experiences in their virtual classrooms with professional counterparts from the Navy, Air Force, or Marines. The combining of training resources is not new to the military, but it is new to many professionals maintaining our computer networks.

The Regional LandWarNet Training Center, on Taylor Barracks here in Mannheim, has been in operation for almost two years, and during that time has provided a wealth of skill and knowledge to many IT professionals. Introductory and advanced courses are offered in a variety of technical skills along with management techniques specific to operating and maintaining military data networks. The center also ensures the training is focused and up-to-date, and keeps the capabilities and technical knowledge of its students at peak performance.

Because this virtual training program has proven to be successful, the eagerness to share the technology was no surprise.

"I am shifting mission focus and need to retrain a significant number of personnel over the next six months. Doing it virtually and in a tailored manner is very appealing," said U. S. Navy Capt. Barbara A. Geraghty, commander, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Europe Central in Naples, Italy.

Recently, U.S. Army Col. Robert Ferrell, commander, 2nd Signal Brigade, presented this concept at the Senior Communicators Conference in Stuttgart, Germany. In attendance were IT officers and civilians representing all European military services. Because all services use the same common network backbone, it is obvious that each service has many of the same training requirements. Bringing these technical professionals under one joint training umbrella is the key to providing effective and efficient network management throughout the theater.

"We're looking forward to working cooperative training," said U.S. Air Force Col. Mark Hinchman, deputy director, Communications and Information A6-D.

Participants in the conference noted that communication between joint service systems should be plug-and-play, and that combined technical IT training may be the key to making that happen. Soon, logging into a virtual IT classroom may net from a fellow classmate a hearty "Welcome Aboard!"

## 52nd Signal Battalion VIP commo team engineers deployable VTC package

By

**Chief Warrant Officer**

**Matthew T. Cramer**

*(52nd Signal Battalion)*

**T**he 52nd Signal Battalion's VIP Communications team has grown since its start in October 2002. Originally a one-person operation with support hardly worthy of a general officer, it has matured into a team of eight, providing the newest technology and the highest level of support. Its mission is to support the U.S. European Command's (USEUCOM) deputy commander with secure voice and data, and video teleconferencing (VTC) communications within minutes of arrival anywhere around the world.

The team has engineered a self-powered deployable VTC package with high

quality video. The package, which can provide up to 128 Kbps with quality similar to higher-end 256 Kbps terminals, has since been used to support the USEUCOM commander and V Corps. Through video compression algorithms, data caching, and improved video coder-decoder equipment, the quality has increased phenomenally considering the size of the package deployed.

Today they are placing H.320 Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) standard video calls instead of the H.323 (serial Internet Protocol through ISDN) standard video. The change allowed an incredible increase in transferring data. Normally the 128 Kbps International Maritime Satellite (INMARSAT) calls would pass only a maximum of 60 Kbps worth of video traf-

fic at a time. Using the H.320 standard through a video gateway, it increased to 110 Kbps. This not only increased the quality of the video stream, but stabilized the encryption link between users. The engineered package fits in a standard professional briefcase and weighs roughly 25 pounds.

Another new area of video technology is in-flight VTC. Through improved aircraft communications, the team set up airborne video communications. VTCs have been conducted from more than 10,000 feet. Using the same technology, ISDN calls are placed through the aircraft INMARSAT terminals. Personnel aboard the aircraft can make video and secure voice calls, and access both secure and nonsecure Internet Protocol router e-mail accounts. This decreases the urgency of providing communications support after landing.

Today's technology has gotten faster, lighter, and much simpler to use. 52nd Signal Battalion's VIP Communications team continues to keep the USEUCOM deputy commander at the peak of communications support.

# Digital European Backbones leave mountaintops

By  
Lt. Col. Michelle M. Fraley  
(G7, 5th Signal Command)

**F**KV: Upgraded System Ready Soon was the front page headline on the ECHO news paper April 21, 1975.

"How come they're building that big tower at Patch Barracks; what is FKV?" was part of the mystery. Only a few knew that the new tower would support the microwave communications links between Frankfurt, the Königstuhl (near Heidelberg) and Vaihingen (near Stuttgart). It added 48 more voice channels with bulk encryption using a device called CY-104. It also offered wideband secure voice to move from the 'Donald Duck' sounding secure voice reception.

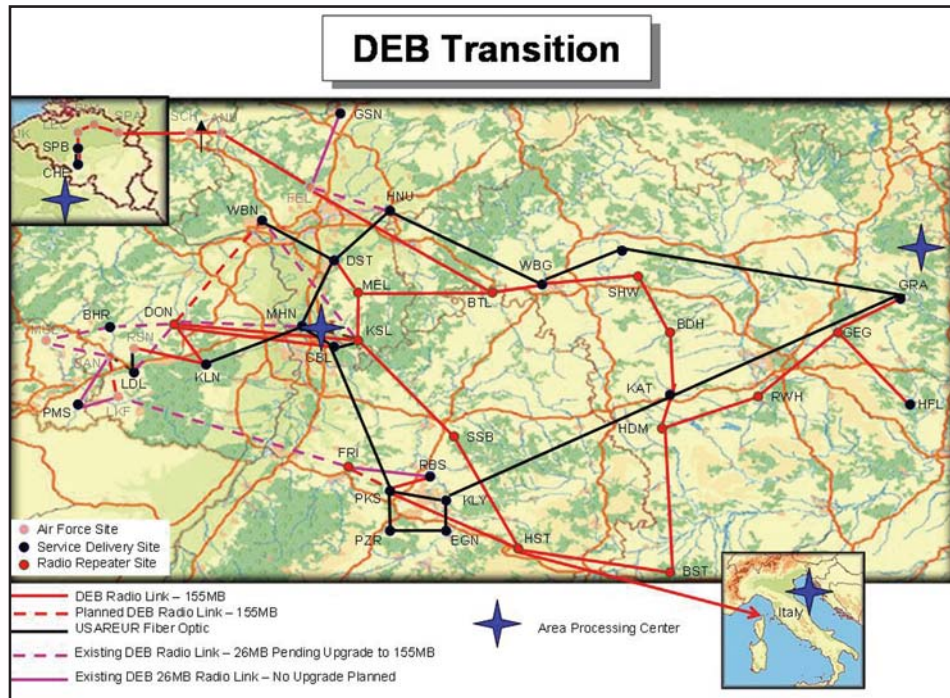
The Digital European Backbone (DEB) consists of more than 60 unmanned and manned radio-relay and end stations located throughout the U.S. European Command (USEUCOM) theater of operations.

Although some argue that technology has not moved quickly enough when it came to the DEB program, the DEB has served its purpose taking us from the 26 Mbps DRAMA microwave radios throughout Germany, the United Kingdom, Belgium, and Northern Italy to the 155 Mbps digital radios. Some of these, in some instances, will see their decommissioning with base closures and completion of the government-owned fiber optic network.

We are on the third generation of radios that have increased the bandwidth six-fold, with Asynchronous Transfer Mode (ATM) bandwidth managers that take us away from the old technical control facilities (TCF) days of patch cords and bays of conditioning equipment.

A year ago the U.S. Air Force invested in leased bandwidth to take down the portion of the DEB extending to the United Kingdom.

"There was some apprehension as the



The Digital European Backbone transition

U.S. Air Force moved away from government owned bandwidth, but reliability and redundancy with the commercial leased links has been flawless," said U.S. Air Force Col. Steve Spano, S6, United States Air Forces in Europe (USAFE).

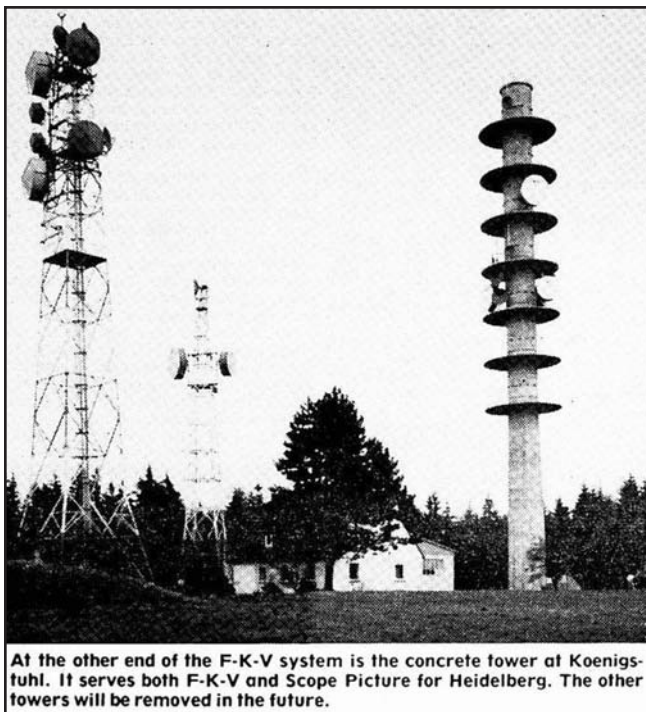
In an unprecedented partnership between USEUCOM, Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA), U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR), and USAFE under the leadership of G7, 5th Signal Command, 14 Army and 11 Air Force DEB sites will be decommissioned by December this year. The USEUCOM architecture working group approved stopping the radio upgrades of 10 radio links (in the Donnersberg area), and only two links will continue: Baumholder-Donnersberg-Wiesbaden. The remaining radio links will leverage existing fiber optic connectivity and leased bandwidth. The first Army site associated with this effort is Frielzheim.

Concurrently, DISA has leveraged on the Army's leased bandwidth to support the area processing center in the Benelux

(Chièvres), and provisioned additional bandwidth. The additional bandwidth acquired by DISA, and a simultaneous effort between DISA and 5th Signal Command to lease bandwidth between Wiesbaden and Giessen, will provide the opportunity to transition the link from Königstuhl-Melibokus-Breistol-Felberg-Adenau to the Benelux sometime in October this year. The Air Force will be able to turnover Felberg when Rhein Main closes in December this year.

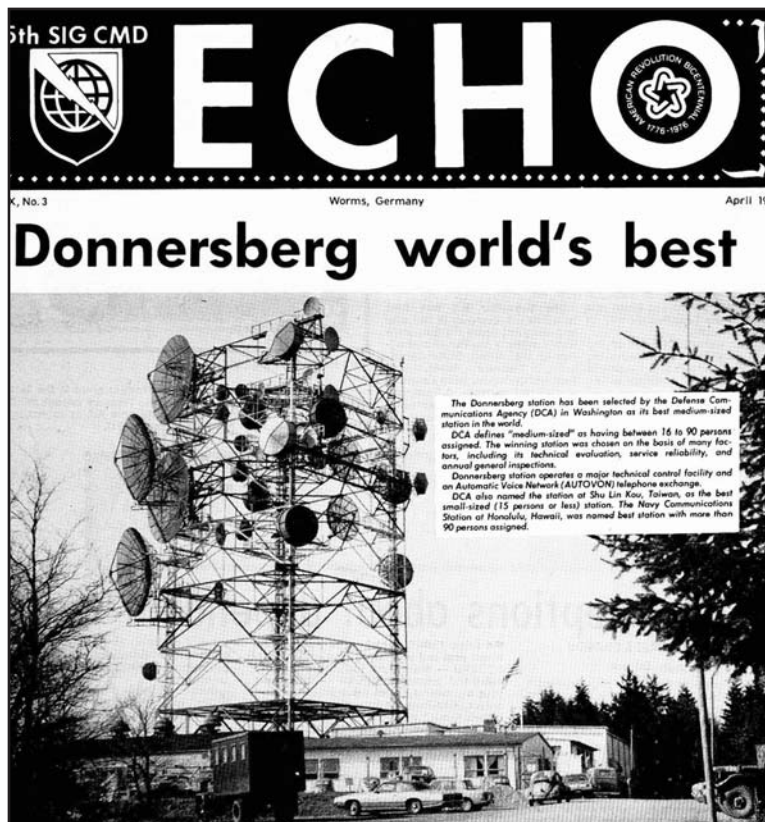
The completion of the Stuttgart thru Ansbach to Grafenwöhr fiber optic link allows for the Breistol-Würzburg-Schwanberg-Brandhof-Katterbach-Heidenheim and Geigenwang-Rheinwarthofen-Heidenheim-Bonstetten-Hohenstadt radio links to be terminated. The completion of fiber from Ramstein to Landstuhl connecting through Heidelberg down to Stuttgart make it easier to stop the Königstuhl-Donnersberg, Königstuhl-Campbell, and Königstuhl-Stocksberg-Heidenheim radio links. The radio link from Grafenwöhr





At the other end of the F-K-V system is the concrete tower at Koenigsstuhl. It serves both F-K-V and Scope Picture for Heidelberg. The other towers will be removed in the future.

Photo and caption above were taken from March 1976 ECHO newspaper archives. Photo right was taken from April 1976 ECHO newspaper archives.



## 5th SIG CMD ECHO

K. No. 3

Worms, Germany

April 1976

### Donnersberg world's best

The Donnersberg station has been selected by the Defense Communications Agency (DCA) in Washington as its best medium-sized station in the world. DCA defines "medium-sized" as having between 16 to 90 persons assigned. The winning station was chosen on the basis of many factors, including its technical evaluation, service reliability, and annual general inspection. Donnersberg station operates a major technical control facility and an Automatic Voice Network (AUTOVON) telephone exchange. DCA also named the station at Shu Lin Kuo, Taiwan, as the best small-sized (15 persons or less) station. The Navy Communications Station at Honolulu, Hawaii, was named best station with more than 90 persons assigned.

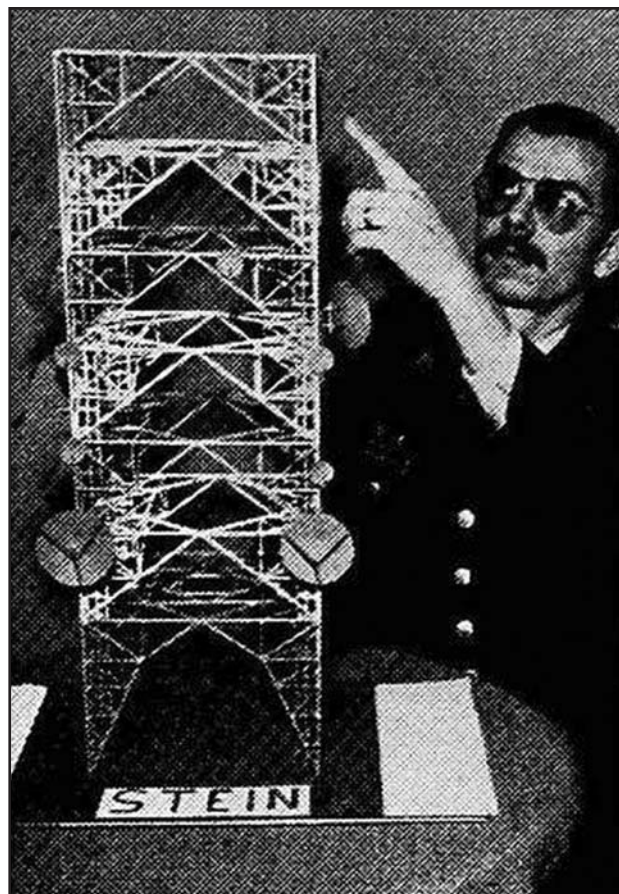
through Geigenwang to Hohenfels will not be turned off until the fiber links from Grafenwöhr to Hohenfels, and Hohenfels to Ansbach are completed in late fiscal year 2006.

The DEB sites in Europe have seen 40 years of emerging technology, and have enabled the Signal Corps to provide superb battle command to our warfighters. The DEB sites have received many accolades from the Defense Communications Agency, now the Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA). The front page of the ECHO in April 1976 congratulated the Donnersberg station as the best medium-sized station in the world. Many distinguished visitors have visited these sites, as highlighted in the December 1976 ECHO, such as Maj. Gen. Gerd S. Grombacher, the U.S. Army Communications Command (USACC) commander. USACC became U.S. Army Information Systems Command (USAISC) in the late 1980s, now known as the U.S. Army Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command, always stationed at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. Others like Spc. 5 Karl Walker took pride in building an exact replica of the microwave station near Stein, Germany, showcased in the

February 1977 edition of the ECHO.

Although 5th Signal Command recently closed the DEB sites at Nuremberg and Pirmasens, we know that the forthcoming closing of sites will not be an easy task. In addition to taking down the equipment, there are environmental and safety issues that must be addressed. There are also others using the sites such as the Armed Forces Network, Vodaphone, and installation force protection radio systems to name a few.

The DEB transition will posture this theater for the future in the areas of reduced force protection requirements, restationing, and rebasing. Most importantly it will increase the capability for operational commanders with the implementation of the new fiber infrastructure.



Spc. 5 Karl Welker shows a replica that he built of the signal tower at his microwave station near Stein, Germany. (Photo and caption were taken from the February 1997 ECHO newspaper.)

# Enabling combat forces

## Taking bandwidth out of the equation

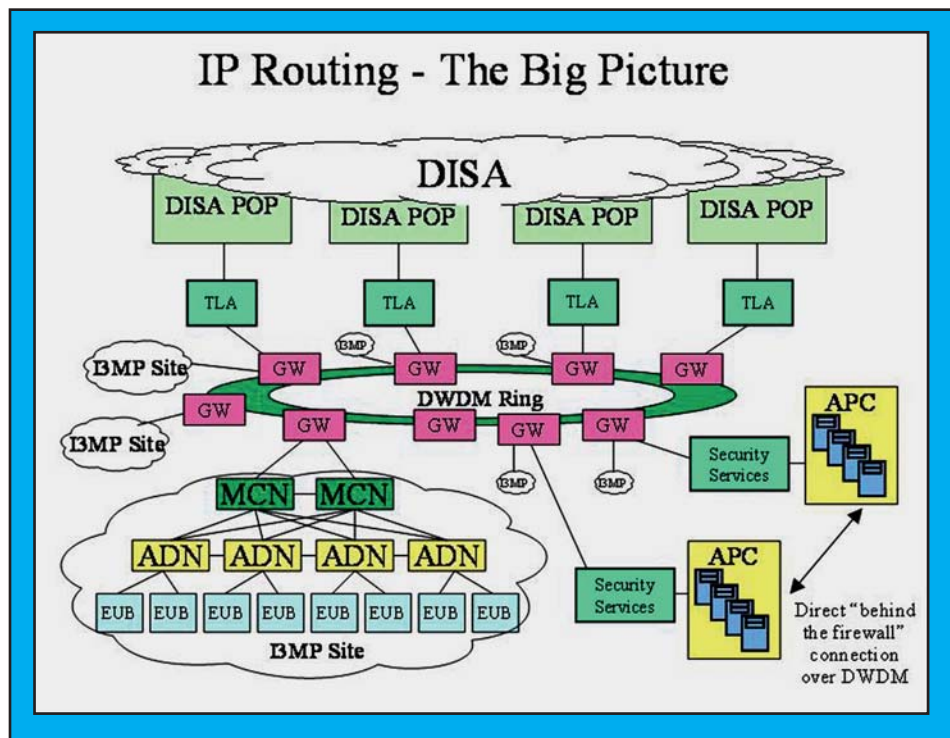
By  
Lt. Col. Michelle M. Fraley  
(G7, 5th Signal Command)

The U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) fiber optic effort is the foundation to take "bandwidth out of the equation" and enable our respective combat forces. USAREUR's funding accounted for 80 percent of the investment. Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) and the United States Air Forces in Europe contributions achieved the 100 percent funding needed to complete the fiber rings in the central region by fiscal year 2006.

Our current fiber optic network is on an ATM/SONET backbone. Setting up the SONET Ring architecture provides the protection and restoration of services to make the network a true 'weapons system.' Shortly after the SONET ring is set up in fiscal year 2006, we will move in a parallel path with the Global Information Grid Bandwidth Expansion (GIG-BE) program. We will adopt two next generation design characteristics: dense wave division multiplexing optically switched backbone that is protocol independent, and a commitment to a converged Internet Protocol (IP) infrastructure.

The effort on the fiber optic ring has to be complemented by a myriad of other key events. The fiber tie cable program brings our existing 21 community enclaves to the fiber optic ring.

A good example is in the Stuttgart area. Patch Barracks is the site on the ring; however, the tie fiber connecting Patch Barracks to Panzer, Echterdingen



and Kelly brings these three other communities "virtually" to the ring. Another important effort is the Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program-Europe (I3MP), which takes the GIG capability down to the desktop.

Some of us think of I3MP as an upgrade to the physical infrastructure (new fiber, hardened carrier, main communications nodes, area distribution nodes, and end-user buildings). With these advantages, it brings a new IP schema within Europe that will allow networks, architectures, and technologies to converge.

The installation of 63 EWSD digital telephone switches will provide Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) connectivity, primary rate interface (PRI) and channel associated signaling (CAS) interfaces on the trunk side. This is besides the already current DISA-driven Defense Switched Network Signaling-System-7 interface ability. Concurrently, we are consolidating all servers providing community exchange services and dynamic host

configuration protocol, to name a few, under four area processing centers.

This effort would not be complete without installing a top-level architecture IP security stack designed to provide information assurance (IA) firewalls, and intrusion-detection systems. This is at the border between the Army networks and the DISN-E.

The equipment fielding and network topology will provide IA/CND theater services managed by the ANOSC/RCERT, area services managed by our six network operations and security centers, installation services managed by our 21 network services centers, and end user access managed by unit IA specialist or trained information management offices.

These efforts are taking the USAREUR infrastructure from legacy microwave with low-bandwidth architecture and leaping into the future to provide the warfighter an operational-base reach-back to a fiber optic network.



6981st Civilian Support Group

# European cabling crew plays pivotal transformation role

By  
**Eddie Boes**  
(S4, 2nd Signal Brigade)

**B**ased in Mannheim, Germany, the 6981st Civilian Support Group (CSG) is Europe's premier cable installation and repair organization.

Nearly 90 strong, the 6981st is the largest of the three remaining Army CSGs in Europe and the only one specializing in cabling. According to the commander, Maj. Gerd Drechsler, their rapid accomplishment of several recent high-profile missions is testament to their "unbeatable combination of flexibility, cost-effectiveness, and quality skill" as they support warfighters and the U.S. Army Europe's (USAREUR) transformation efforts.

Last September, the unit was critical in installing communications infrastruc-

ture for the annual Land Combat Expo in Heidelberg when it laid more than 11 kilometers of copper and fiber cable to connect 150 vendors and staff at USAREUR's premier professional development event. This was one of the major events explaining the latest information technology abilities to thousands of Soldiers, civilians and family members. According to Janice Frutiger, Heidelberg's Network Service Center chief, "the 6981st are the quiet professionals that made this event a success."

The German team was called once again in October 2004 for exercise support at the Seventh Army Training Command's training area in Grafenwöhr, Germany. Mission Rehearsal Exercise Lion Challenge was part of the Southern European Task Force's (SETAF) preparation for its rotation to Afghanistan. In less than three weeks, the 6981st team



**Uwe Nothdurft and Leon Ekman feed pole into drilled hole while Uwe Mewes operate line construction truck at Grafenwöhr, Germany.**

installed more than 25 kilometers of cable, many patch panels, and cable distribution systems for the container offices of "Legoland" headquarters to the critical simulation exercise. This resounding formula for success was used again in January for SETAF's capstone exercise, Unified Endeavor, which also included fiber optic-training for Soldiers of the 44th Signal Battalion.

Supporting USAREUR's transformation, the 6981st is squarely in the middle of this important effort. Whether installing cable systems for moves such as the 64th Replacement Company's move from Rhein Main Air Base to Pioneer Kaserne in Hanau, or upgrading facilities in communities such as Kaiserslautern and Wiesbaden, the 6981st plays a pivotal role.

With costs normally limited to installation materials, they are an indispensable, cost-effective means for cabling infrastructure needed to support changing high-tech defense abilities. The civilians of the 6981st stand ready to answer the call.

**Uwe Nothdurft, Ruediger Freitag, Viktor Mueller, Leon Ekman, and Uwe Mewes (on truck) set up new pole for an overhead line at Grafenwöhr, Germany.**



*Photos Provided by 2nd Signal Brigade*

# I3MP-E: Closing the capability gap in USAREUR

By

**Lt. Col. Simon L. Holzman**

*(Product Manager for Defense Communications Systems - Europe)*

The revolutionary training approach of preparing rotating units earmarked for deployment to Iraq and other locations, as seen in exercises at the Seventh Army Training Command's (7ATC) training facility in Grafenwöhr, Germany, provides a window into the not too distant future. It brings together an array of advanced tactical to strategic and simulation systems that can communicate seamlessly in a joint, net-centric environment. A critical enabler for this success is the U.S. Army Europe (USAREUR) infrastructure modernization initiatives that started in the 1990s. The other is HQDA's centrally funded Installation Information Infrastructure Modernization Program - Europe (I3MP-E) that started in 2002 under the Product Manager Defense Communications Systems - Europe (PM DCS-E), Program Executive Office Enterprise Information Systems (PEO EIS).

USAREUR is now realizing the fruits of several years of communication infrastructure investments and its first taste of exponential enhancements that were only PowerPoint slides in 2001. Throughout USAREUR, robust communication infrastructures are coming on-line with significant bandwidth, security and quality of service enhancements. These enhancements are not limited to headquarters facilities and are now beginning to take shape through I3MP-E implementations at virtually all military buildings with five or more data-network users.

Closing the capability gap of providing reliable bandwidth that is sufficiently sized, anywhere and when required, has been one of the signal communicator's

greatest challenges. Based on current timelines and projected funding, the majority of USAREUR's expeditionary forces at future installations will see these changes by the end of fiscal year 2007, and the remainder by the end of Fiscal 2011. What may seem as a surprise for many is that these plans include providing the same bandwidth capabilities for the LandWarNet-Classified (LWN-C), formally called the SIPRNET, as would be available for the LandWarNet-Unclassified (LWN-U), formally called the NIPRNET, during this same time period.

While the CONUS version of I3MP is in the midst of a program reorganization to expand its capabilities, PM DCS-E successfully reorganized I3MP-E nearly three years ago. The I3MP-E program has taken a balanced approach to delivering a

myriad of capabilities throughout USAREUR's area of responsibility rather than creating islands of "have" and "have not" installations. PM DCS-E has leveraged and complemented USAREUR's ongoing IT initiatives through partnerships with its G6, 5th Signal Command's G7, and other 5th Signal Command staff elements and subordinate commands. I3MP-Europe's synergy extends beyond USAREUR's IT initiatives and is gained through collaboration with Installation Management Agency, Europe, local infrastructure modernization efforts, Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA) efforts to modernize the Global Information Grid, and Rebasing and Restructure activities.

Figure 1 graphically illustrates the I3MP-E's synergy with the various major initiatives in the U.S. Europe Command (USEUCOM) area of operation. In this notional depiction, DISA brings a world-class Government-owned carrier transport with virtually limitless bandwidth capabilities to strategic locations within Europe. I3MP-E establishes the interface with DISA locations through an enhanced "gateway" and Defense in Depth security stack program called the Top Layer Architecture - Redesign 2 (TLA-R2). Since DISA is not able to bring this capa-

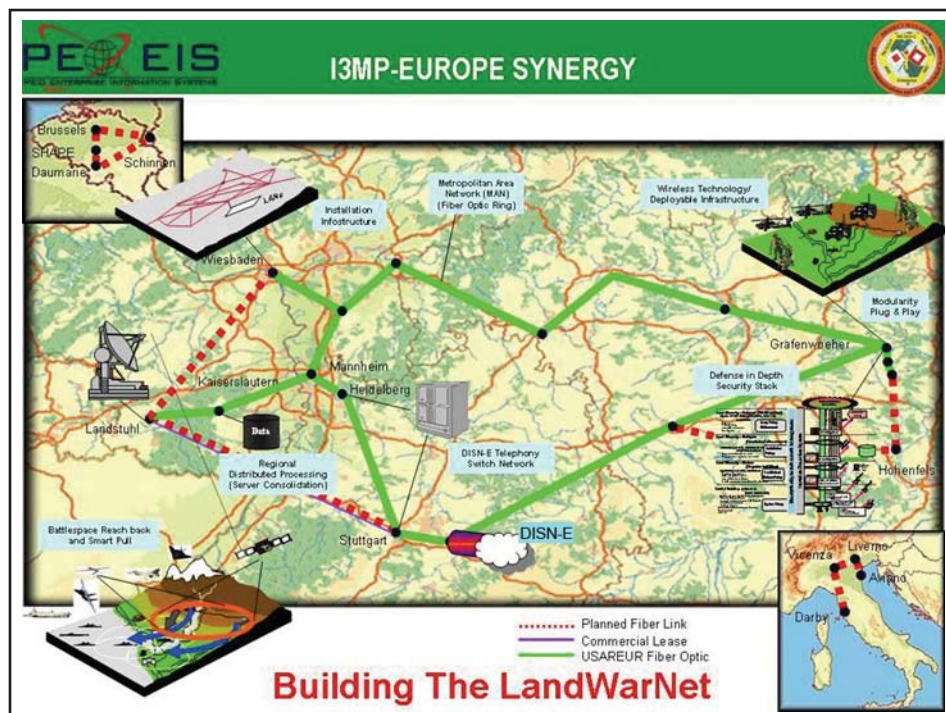


Figure 1 graphically illustrates the I3MP-E's synergy with the various major initiatives in the USEUCOM Theater.



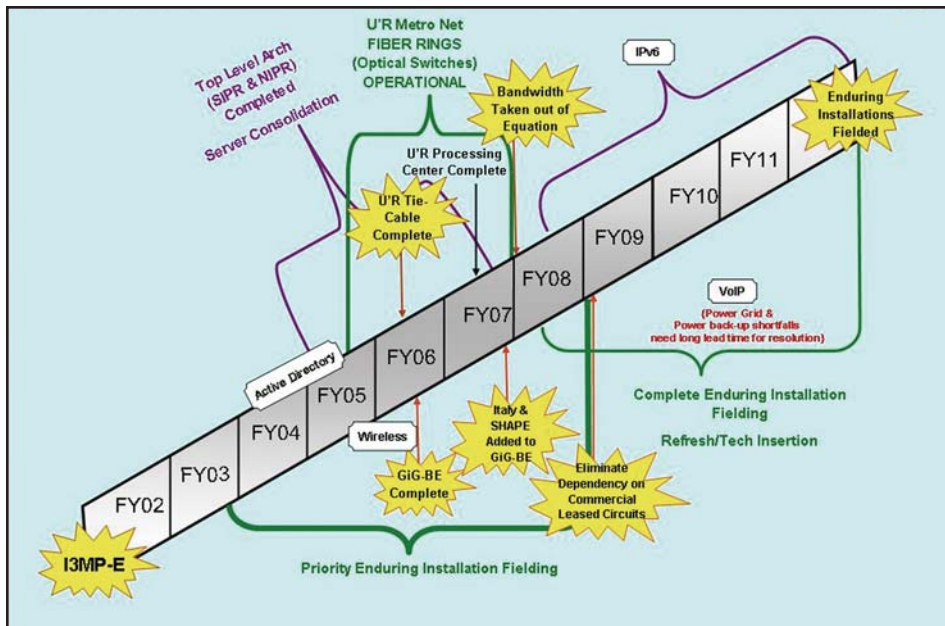


Figure 2 shows the I3MP-Europe infostructure timeline.

bility to every enduring USAREUR installation, PM DCS-E leveraged the USAREUR Long-Haul Tie-Fiber program to provide USAREUR and 7ATC with a world-class intra-USAREUR carrier transport capability that will connect the various installations not directly supported by DISA's connections with the same virtually limitless bandwidth capabilities under a program called Dense Wave Division Multiplex (DWDM) Optical Transport Network (OTN). The DWDM OTN program will be awarded this summer and will "light up" existing and planned fibers with an initial operational capability (IOC) in fiscal year 2006 and full operational capability (FOC) by the end of fiscal year 2007. The significance is that bandwidth will no longer be a constraint getting in/out of an enduring USAREUR installation. Furthermore, USAREUR will be able to significantly draw down its dependence on costly leased circuits.

The USAREUR plan to consolidate server farms into four area processing centers (APCs) will reach its full potential when combined with the robust DWDM OTN (also called interconnected optical fiber rings or optical fiber rings for short). The optical fiber rings will provide 99.999 percent reliability and the capability relocate the networks' command and control.

To fix the bandwidth limitations on an installation, the classic I3MP program will provide fiber connectivity to all military buildings with five or more data network requirements (also referred to as Tier-3

plus facilities). This includes hooking up any Army headquarters below battalion, chapel office area, motor pools/vehicle maintenance shops with administrative areas, barracks with administrative areas, education and training centers, dental and health clinic using Army common backbone, AFN facilities, and many more similar requirements.

Starting this year, PM DCS-E will jump-start efforts to tackle the last hundred meter shortfall within the buildings to provide both LWN-U and LWN-C capabilities. Funding limitations will stretch this effort out through fiscal year 2011 with priority of effort given to Brigade Combat Team locations down to company level and other USAREUR-designated priorities such as battalion headquarters and above, server farms, dual-homed buildings, GiG technical control facilities, base support office areas, training support centers, and pre-deployment sites (also referred to as Tier-2 facilities).

Emerging technologies such as wireless

capabilities, Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) that realizes the convergence of voice and data over a single network, and the use of thin/thick clients are commercially available solutions currently being tested for future use in USAREUR. In Grafenwöhr, we are attempting to resolve issues that prevent tactical users from "Plug and Play" interfaces into the operational base infrastructure.

Finally, commercial products are now available to address encryption requirements that have been previously waived due to technical capability limitations. USAREUR/G6 and 5th Signal Command in coordination with PM DCS-E is developing a plan that will ensure all traffic departing the installation will be encrypted per the prerequisite DoD and USEUCOM standards.

The funding is in place to accomplish all the timeline activities and major milestones depicted in figure 2. By the end of fiscal year 2008, USAREUR & TF5 will have a network capability that will fully be capable of leveraging DISA's infostructure for both LWN-U and LWN-C at its priority enduring installations. The vision of USAREUR as displayed on the PowerPoint slides of 2001 will be a reality and the information infrastructure will modularly be able to adapt to technology enhancements well into 2020.

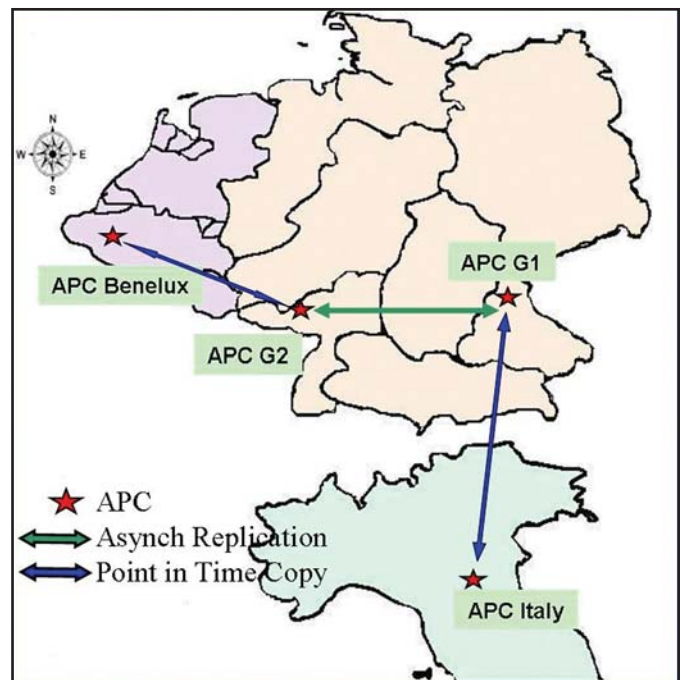


Figure 3 shows USAREUR's planned area processing centers

# Changing information to knowledge on-line

By

**Michelle Curtis**

*(Information Management Office, 5th Signal Command)*

**W**hat is knowledge? The e-mail that you received today? The phone call that just came in? The piece of paper you are reading? The answer is all the above. But when it comes to doing your job, you need the right information, at the right time, in the right format that translates into knowledge. We have to be able to categorize, prioritize, personalize, and provide feedback on all the information coming in.

We are an Army enabled with cell phones, blackberries, laptops and desktop -- everything digitized to make us faster. The question is what are we doing to help process all this information for better decision-making?

## ***Knowledge through Information retrieval, management, and delivery:***

The commanding general of 5th Signal Command has paved the way for knowledge management in the command. Using his vision, key initiatives that needed his oversight were set up within the portal to manage and keep updated. This is an area for the commander to get the latest and greatest for a specific initiative. Equally important, he steered the command to a dashboard idea where senior leaders have a place to get relevant and up-to-date information for their areas of operation. The effort proved fruitful and has taken the command through a cultural shift to realize the importance of sharing information openly, which saves time when gathering information.

"No more searching through deleted e-mails or endless number of folders. All the information you need is on the portal. One quick search and the information is at your fingertips," said Allan Shubzda, webmaster, 5th Signal Command.

5th Signal Command is always on the cutting edge with new technology, and websites are no exception. The command was one of the first in U.S. Army Europe to set up a website in the early 1990s. Staying true to this idea, it has launched one of the first portal websites in the theater.

What is a portal? It is a website that uses processes and systems, indexes and organizes information, provides tighter security for access, and has readily available information for the user. The best part is bringing people together.

"The portal has enabled the G7 to set up internal business practices to improve management of assets and share the battle rhythm for installations and upgrades covering 90 different sites for 19 different projects in a collaborative environment. It has allowed us to combined personnel, equipment, and facility upgrades to deliver increased capabilities to the warfighter," said Lt. Col. Michelle M. Fraley, G7.

Portal environments have evolved into service-oriented applications as end users fully understand the abilities of its technology. The first uses typically focused on integrating information and services into a single corporate portal area. As areas of interest developed within the portal, the needs grew to wanting a collaborative area where user groups could interact on a common project, program, or mission.

The Soldiers and civilians of the command now have one centralized area where they can go to find relevant information on programs and projects going on in the headquarters. Key information is now readily available for senior leaders. Information has been taken from disparate desktop hard drives and put into a single shared environment. Probably the most effective use of the portal has been the commanding general's ability to get the latest copy of an information paper on a specific project without having to contact the action officer.

The command continues to drive forward with the evolution of the portal and the benefits of integration with the desktop for collaboration. The first stage of the portal enabled the user to keep senior leadership informed, but didn't bring much return. The next evolution will provide the end user the ability to co-collaborate from the desktop with others on his or her team to create and share information, which will later form the end result for management or senior leadership.

"People talk about knowledge management and the Army has made huge strides in putting it into practice, but the 5th Signal Command Portal is the best effort I have seen. It's been said to build it and they will come. We are at that point right now; the portal needs to become intergrated into the daily business culture," said Col. Mark Steenberg, G1.

The information universe is transforming. The technological developments of the closing decades of the last century have created an ever-expanding universe of information. The growth in the ability to create and share information offers enormous cultural, educational, and financial benefits for those who know how to harness it, and present information in usable form. However, the same growth has led to an unavoidable dilution in both the quality and the applicability of that information to any particular individual unable to use the knowledge of information.

The ability to monitor and identify relevant information, assimilate, manage, and respond to it is placing increasing time demands on the end user. In an ever-expanding universe of information, information itself is no longer rare, but knowledge is. Many people have reached a point of "information overload" -- they don't have the time to find the valuable information themselves and convert it into knowledge.



# MARS Gateway powers down

By

Everett Armistad

(G3, 5th Signal Command)

## MARS... "This is Edingen EM1US."

These are the words that ended an era.

The Military Affiliate Radio System (MARS) was established in November 1925. At that time it was called the Army Amateur Radio System (AARS) and was run by amateur radio operators alongside the U.S. Army Signal Corps. Capt. Thomas C. Rives of the Army Signal Corps was leading the way in this venture. He set out on a path of research and development to improve radio equipment within the Army. Rives's 'brain child' at that time was to use the skills of volunteer amateur radio operators as a source to aid in the training of Soldiers in the then new technology of radio.

In 1948, the AARS was renamed MARS. Since that date, there has been a MARS Gateway located in Europe. As a gateway station it acted as a central hub to Southwest Asia, Africa, and Europe. All traffic from each of these points was relayed through Europe before going out to the rest of the world. Being a gateway and the only station in the region, it was manned 24/7 by active duty Soldiers.

The MARS gateway was moved to different Army installations throughout its existence here in Germany. In 1987, the U.S. Army moved the gateway facility from Patton Barracks in Heidelberg to Edingen, Germany, where for the next 17 years it served proudly in its missions.

Historically, MARS missions served deployed Soldiers worldwide with health, morale, and welfare calls from the Vietnam era until its closure. It supported incident traffic and exercises such as Grecian Firebolt. During Desert Storm, this station alone processed an average of 1,000 messages and 400 phone patches a

month. Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf gave a Certificate of Appreciation to the entire MARS network for its service to the troops of Desert Storm. The original hangs in the main MARS station located at Fort Huachuca, Arizona. All other MARS sites proudly display a copy.

The Edingen MARS Gateway performed its mission well. However, just as the MARS was state of the art and new technology in 1925, there is a new wave of technology going on in today's world such as satellite radio and telephones, the cell phone, normal long-distance telephone calls, and the Internet. Each of these technologies provide a faster and most of all, more convenient and efficient means of communications for voice and the transfer of data around the globe. In today's world, customers prefer a more real-time and convenient means of communications.

The mission of the Edingen MARS Gateway was terminated Sept. 27, 2004 at 5 p.m. local time, and its equipment powered down forever. The last antenna was dismantled Jan. 27, 2005, thus ending a 56-year European mission. "Roger.....Out!"

To learn more about the MARS, go to <http://www.netcom.army.mil/default.cfm>, click "Links" and then "U.S Army Military Affiliate Radio System"



Above: KARLSRUHE, Germany (July 1969) -- Sgt. Perry Clisbee (right) makes an adjustment on the 102nd Signal Battalion's MARS equipment while Spc. Louis Vetter reads a message to go out. (Photos and information taken from ECHO newspaper archives)  
Left: Eastern Saudi Arabia (January 1991) -- Sgt. John Norton, 167th Signal Company, 509th Signal Battalion waits for a reply to a MARS message sent to the United States.

## Sling loading



Soldiers from the 44th Signal Battalion practice sling loading equipment in Grafenwöhr, Germany, before deploying to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 6.

Photo provided by 2nd Signal Brigade

# Road to Afghanistan paved by teamwork

By

**Randy Robertson**

*(Command Group, 2nd Signal Brigade)*

The 44th Signal Battalion cased its colors in February and headed to Afghanistan as part of the Southern European Task Force (SETAF) rotation supporting Operation Enduring Freedom 6. Its send-off marked the beginning of a new mission for the battalion and ended another one for the 2nd Signal Brigade.

While the 7th Signal Brigade was deployed to Iraq last year, the 2nd Signal Brigade took operational control of its two remaining battalions - the 44th and the 509th. It was a formidable challenge on top of supporting enterprise initiatives in full swing throughout Europe and 2nd Brigade already engaged in 24 hours a

day, seven days a week missions with its five battalions. However, the "Brigade of Excellence," was up to the task of preparing these units for their "Road to War."

The brigade staff effectively transitioned its focus to predeployment with priorities to staff, train, and equip these battalions for success downrange. Notable achievements included added responsibility for 506 Soldiers, reassigning 46 Soldiers to critical deploying positions, preparing nearly 200 systems for shipment, up-arming command and control vehicles, and buying ballistic blankets to ensure protection against small-arms fire.

Improvements in communications included getting state-of-the-art security equipment to ward off network intrusions, installing battle-command automation systems, and upgrading the units' data packages.

"In total, we helped with more than 150 procurement actions, using special Global War on Terrorism funding, to ensure they were combat ready and armed with the Army's latest communications technology," said Eddy Boes, S4, 2nd Signal Brigade.

In the training area, months of preparation took place through progressive training events. These included Dragon Impact 2004, mission rehearsal exercises Immediate Response and Lion Challenge, unit convoy live fire, and their final validation with SETAF, Unified Endeavor at Grafenwöhr. In total, 270 Soldiers were certified to U.S. Army Europe standards for deployment.

"It took a change in mind-set for our staff, but through a brigade-wide team effort we've helped ensure their success," said Major James Pugh, S3, 2nd Signal Brigade.

Teamwork is critical as our technology-based Army engages in network-centric warfare. It was this teamwork that enabled 2nd Signal Brigade to ensure their operationally controlled battalions were fully prepared for the road to Afghanistan to continue the fight for freedom.



# Readiness groups keep signal Soldiers combat ready

By  
**Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee**  
(Public Affairs Office, 7th Signal Brigade)

**T**hey say today's Army is a married Army and it is. According to recent statistics, more than 65 percent of Soldiers are married, or single parents and have their families stationed with them.

The Soldiers of 7th Signal Brigade are no exception. A vital part of our Soldier's combat ready is maintaining strong family readiness groups (FRGs). With the present tempo of deployments within the brigade, the FRG are standing strong to support our warriors.

"We take the FRG very seriously, and it is important the command team supports the FRG 200 percent," said Angela Wellein, Company B, 44th Signal Battalion, FRG leader.

Although our Army is comprised of many families, the single Soldiers are also included in family readiness.

"The FRG's goal is to be available to all Soldiers, their families and friends, regardless of marital status," she said. "Family readiness means Army family and not only a nuclear family. Our families are getting something out of the FRG and our long list of participants and volunteers are just one way we can measure our success."

She said FRG success depends on building bonds and friendships.

"This is important because you will ask for help or talk to someone if you have established a friendship and trust and if you have confidence in your (FRG)," said Wellein. "It's about being comfortable with the organization and if they are, I think Soldiers can leave feeling better knowing their families are not left home alone."

One way the 44th FRG is keeping their Soldiers connected is with a new "Gathering Room" that just officially

opened March 21. It can be used for everything from Internet access to meetings.

"This is a place for people to pull together, meet and make it their own. It is a very open and inviting place where they can fellowship and know they're not the only one," said Gena Churchwell, 44th Signal Battalion, FRG coordinator. "It's free and can be made available 24/7."

For Soldiers the gathering room means, "they will be able to complete their missions better and with more focus, knowing their families have a place to come and watch out for one another," she added.

FRGs keep the families connected and by doing this, it helps relieve stress.

"Combating stress with the family members here and in the states is very important. It is more difficult to help moms, dads, and grandparents in the United States stay informed but we contact them too," said Wellein. "In doing so, the families at home are armed with information and reassurance that they can call someone with questions or concerns

if the need arises. Just knowing that your Soldier is okay and that you can reach out if you need to helps lessen stress in many ways."

Even when not deployed FRGs should be active to help foster togetherness and keep our units combat ready. Everyone benefits from the family being prepared.

"When we deploy, Soldiers will know their families are safe, housed, have access to medical care, community services and educational opportunities," said Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, former Army Chief of Staff. "Our success depends on the whole team - Soldiers, civilians, families - all of whom serve the Nation."

The FRGs of 7th Signal Brigade are working hard to make sure we accomplish this mission. They are pulling together to help everyone feel welcomed. They are coordinating special unit events to include physical and spiritual fitness activities. They are making sure families are communicating their finances and family records, and most of all, they are keeping the families connected.

"The FRGs help to keep the families up to date with reliable information and assistance," said Dana Mullins, 44th Signal Battalion, FRG support assistant. "Every FRG group is different. Leaders have to get to know their group and find out what works."

An effective FRG can help maintain the Soldiers presence while deployed, and it can help the family in the rear use the

See **FRG** on Page 35



Soldier and family enjoy breakfast together at the 44th Signal Battalion dining facility before deploying to Operation Enduring Freedom 6.

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee

# Afghan heavy package departs

By  
**Spc. Autumn Sword**  
(44th Signal Battalion)

**T**he first wave of Task Force Lightning (TFL) Soldiers got a warm farewell during a parting ceremony in the Sullivan Gym. It was 44th Signal Battalion's early send-off of Soldiers in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 6 (OEF-6).

Known as the Afghan Heavy Package, with Soldiers from Headquarters, A, B, and C Companies, they are the battalion's first deployed Soldiers to support OEF-6 with communications for their yearlong mission in Afghanistan.

"This was the first group of more than 200 outstanding Task Force Lightning Soldiers that will leave for Afghanistan in support of a great mission," said Lt. Col. William Churchwell, commander, TFL.

"I'm grateful to have this opportunity today to wish the entire team well before they go downrange," added Churchwell, during his closing remarks.

1st Lt. Tamisha Norris, the Afghan Heavy Communication Package officer in charge, praised the data team for its diligent effort to prepare to go downrange, commenting on the way its cohesion, dedication, and motivation went the greatest distance.

"Everyone was focused on completing the tasks necessary to get us out the door. The cohesion within the team will ensure we come home; true mission accomplishment. The entire team is technically proficient and is professional, dedicated, and motivated to complete the mission. These are outstanding qualities in a team," she said.

The team is sure to develop even more technical skills during its deployment, according to Spc. Robert Gray,

information systems operator analyst for Company B.

"We will improve and exchange our skills on the technical and warfighter side. We have put in countless hours of training to provide the best communications support and now it is time to deliver," said Gray.

Churchwell agreed the critical and reliable communications expertise to support the American and coalition forces will be a rewarding learning experience.

In fact, Norris added, the data package team will return as better Soldiers in every way. "This is an exciting mission. We are the A-team," she said.

The ceremony closed with warm smiles and handshakes between Afghan team members, Soldiers, family and friends.



Photo above: Command Sgt. Maj. Vernetta Lewis and Lt. Col. William Churchwell, commander, Task Force Lightning, case the battalion colors at 44th Signal Battalion's deployment ceremony in Sullivan Barrack's Gym in Mannheim.

Photo below: 44th Signal Battalion Soldiers in formation for departure ceremony.



Photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee



# Tactical meets strategic at Camp Buehring, Kuwait

By

**1st Lt. Melissa Riley**

*(Company B, 72nd Signal Battalion)*

**B**ravo Company, 72nd Signal Battalion arrived at Camp Buehring, the largest tactical staging area in Kuwait, in January 2003. At that time, the camp mainly consisted of clusters of large 60-man tents spread out over a four-mile radius. Despite the lack of permanent structures, the camp population peaked at 14,000 over a five-month period while units staged at Buehring before moving into Iraq. Bravo Company's mission was to manage the Technical Control Facility (TCF), which acted as a small hub in theater, and to ensure these units had reliable communications during their transition.

The TCF consisted of a combination of commercial strategic equipment and tactical systems. All Soldiers had to learn the commercial counterpart of their tactical systems. The satellite communication systems operator - maintainers (25Ss) not only kept their tactical satellite (TACSAT) equipment running, but the USC-60 equipment as well. The information systems operator-analysts (25Bs) recognized the equipment used in the network; but some of the equipment, such as the Promina 800, the Pix fire wall, and the CISCO fiber-capable switches, was new to them. Data services were extended with fiber-optic cable around camp.

Most Soldiers had never worked with fiber, and troubleshooting this became a challenge for both data and cable Soldiers. The cable systems installer-maintainers (25Ls) also installed and maintained digital non-secure voice terminals (DNVTs) and Defense Switched Network (DSN) lines that were extended

throughout the camp with commercial 200 pair cable. The cable ended at commercial Krone Punch Downs and connected to a red communication switch. 25Ls had to learn to troubleshoot this extensive commercial telecommunications network while also training with the 25Bs to more efficiently meet customer needs.

All Soldiers had to cross-train to streamline the process of helping customers. 25Ss staffed the Promina while 25Bs were taking care of trouble tickets. The 25Ls learned to troubleshoot the CISCO switches and pairgains in the camp's network. Far from their transmission shelter, 25Qs were learning to ask the important questions that enabled data or cable teams to fix quickly any customer's problem. At the same time they were taking trouble tickets and service requests at the customer help desk, a necessary task when providing communications to such a large camp.

To help with providing communications to the camp's huge population, Bravo Company installed many of its own systems. Multiple small extension nodes and line-of-sight radio shelters extended voice and data services to the remote areas of the camp as expansion began.

With growth and expansion, the area began to resemble a more permanent camp and the commercial strategic equipment increased. The need for cross training and familiarization with commercial counterpart equipment increased, showing that signal Soldiers must have a broad range of knowledge to provide the communications support needed by today's military.

The Soldiers of Bravo Company, displaying their dedication and flexibility, met the challenge with more than outstanding results.

## Training signal Soldiers for close combat

By

**Capt. Brian Hamilton**

*(Commander, C Company, 72nd Signal Battalion)*

**S**ignal Soldiers are not historically considered "Combat Soldiers." However, times are changing, and so is the concept of Soldiering.

In conflicts today, all Soldiers can expect to experience close combat. The first step to training an effective force was killing the rear-area non-combat mentality. While supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom 2 and Operation Enduring Freedom, our Soldiers convoyed into and throughout

some of the "hot spots" of Iraq and Afghanistan, to include the height of the rebellion in Najaf, Iraq.

Combat arms units require reliable communications; therefore, signal Soldiers were close by.

Warfighters must be able to talk across the battlefield to win wars and adapt tactics to the fluid battlefield. At war, Company C, 72nd Signal Battalion found it necessary to continually train. Training does not stop when you are deployed. Actually, some of the Army's best training takes place in that environment due to the realistic surroundings and mission require-

ments. Since we continuously maintained a high state of combat readiness, our company was able to move into the heart of Iraq at a moment's notice.

These are some of the training areas that we found most useful during our deployment: convoy procedures, react to ambush, Site Defense, how to prepare a range card, squad tactics, first aid, nine-line MEDEVAC, locate mine and booby trap indicators by visual means, Law of War, rules of engagement and POW handling, and how to transport a casualty.

Signal Soldiers must be able to put up antennas, lay wire, and transmit and receive signals, as well as pick up their weapon, engage and kill the enemy and return to their mission without thinking about it.

That is life as a signal Soldier: "shoot, move, and communicate."

# Unicorn Soldiers enable first Afghanistan election

By  
**Capt. Sirianosac Thepsoumane**  
(Commander, 11th Signal Detachment)

The 11th Signal Detachment got a short-notice mission September 2004 to train and send a two-Soldier communications package known as Task Force (TF) Unicorn to Afghanistan.

Their mission was to provide secure voice, video and data support for TF 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment. This was the operation force for Seventh Army Training Command and the NATO International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan during the first democratic Afghan national election.

"Never before has an infantry company task force had such of data capability available to them. It made all the difference in ensuring safe and free elections in Afghanistan," said Lt. Col. Randy Copeland, commander, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment.

Sgt. Stephen Maloy, system adminis-

trator, Headquarters, 2nd Signal Brigade, and Spc. Levi Kraner, member of the Information Systems Platoon from 44th Signal Battalion, went through a host of technical and tactical training preparing for their mission.

"This was a total 5th Signal Command team effort to get them ready," said Lt. Col. Philip A. Hoyle, commander, 43rd Signal Battalion.

While there, TF Unicorn provided access to home station communication services the 1-4 Infantry Regiment had never seen available in a deployed environment. This included International Maritime Satellite (INMARSAT)-based communications with secure voice and video teleconferencing (VTC), operational data and voice, e-mail, and reach-back in Europe to operational base communications.

The communications package deployed was uniquely created and tailored to the needs of the mission; light and sustainable enough to provide support in remote and often mobile

command posts in Afghanistan. The package used by the two Soldiers fit into two footlockers. The Soldiers ensured a vital communications link was provided back to the European command and the United States 24 hours a day. Without these services, the guard force would not have been able to protect the many polling facilities and ensure a safe, secure, and accurate election.

This communications package configuration could be a forerunner for future packages. As force structure redefines itself and mission requirements change, there is an increasing need for communications support packages that are tailored to specific needs with the smallest support trail. The core need for future communications support is a mobile and adaptable system that satisfies service, joint, and combined requirements. TF Unicorn succeeded in providing Army, joint, and combined forces battle-command abilities in support of the Afghanistan elections.

## Satellite trailer certified for sling load



By  
**Cpl. Serge Batyrshin**  
(Task Force Lightning, 44th Signal Battalion)

**BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan --** 44th Signal Battalion Soldiers from the Traffic Terminal Platoon in Afghanistan, under the guidance of Staff Sgt. Dennis Bramlett, rigged, padded, and positioned a new satellite transportable trailer for its first load test on a CH-47 Chinook. Cpl. Serge Batyrshin and Spc. Jodie Nab attached the trailer while Spc. Christopher Pearson grounded the helicopter with the static wand. The Chinook hovered for approximately three minutes before flying a 10 minute holding pattern over the training area to verify stability of the load.

Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Shawn Boyce/eko



# Task Force Lightning expands its capability with BBN and Phoenix suite

By  
**Fletcher Knox**

(Engineering Solutions and Products, Inc.)

The 509th Signal Battalion based out of Vicenza, Italy sent two Single Shelter Switch Base Band Node (BBN) and TriBand Satellite Terminal (Phoenix) teams to Bagram, Afghanistan. On arrival in Bagram, the BBN/Phoenix package was realigned under 44th Signal Battalion forming "Task Force Lightning." This merger of Soldiers and equipment from two separate 5th Signal Command signal battalions has expanded the communications capability provided to the CJTF-76 warfighter in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 6.

The BBN/Phoenix C4 data package consists of two teams (one team per BBN/Phoenix suite). There are 12 Engineering Solutions and Products, Inc., (ESP) personnel and eight satellite operator-maintainer Soldiers assigned to the

SETAF C4 Data Package (more commonly referred to as BBN/Phoenix teams 1 and 2). Each BBN/Phoenix team consists of one system engineer lead, three system engineers, and four Soldiers. ESP is responsible for the installation, operator-level maintenance, and routine day-to-day use of each C4 data package.

The BBN/Phoenix Team-2 moved from Bagram to a major hub location within the combined joint area of operation in February. There it provided critical command and control (C2) communications support for a maneuver unit while relieving communication units from the 125th Signal Battalion, 25th Infantry Division. BBN/Phoenix Team 1 was entering a 30-day training cycle in preparation to meet any CJTF-76 rapid deployment need for the warfighter.

Each CJTF-76 Task Force Lightning BBN/Phoenix team comes equipped with an AN/TTC-58(V) (BBN) and an improved data and voice gateway switch

housed in an S-788/G lightweight multi-purpose shelter. This system allows the combined joint task force commander the ability to connect to Tier 0 and Tier 1 networks simultaneously. At the same time it also provides high bandwidth capabilities for connectivity to Secret Internet Protocol Router Network, Nonsecure Internet Protocol Router Network, coalition network-centrics, video teleconferencing, and voice circuits supporting the wartime mission. Each data security domain will employ a Cisco PIX firewall and Real Secure Intrusion Detection System, and the latest approved technology for bulk, channel, and tunneling secure encryption. One AN/TSM-210 electronic maintenance shelter is provided with each BBN, allowing on-site quick-reaction maintenance.

Capt. Jason Kinkaid, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, Task Force Lightning, 44th Signal Battalion, had no doubts that his signal company from Camp Ederle, Italy will transition from fielding the BBN/Phoenix to a unit providing reliable and secure communications in a combat environment. "It is a testament to the professionalism and dedication of each ESP civilian and U.S. Army Soldier that the BBN/Phoenix is already deployed and providing the ground commanders with critical C2 support. The BBN/Phoenix is getting it done for the warfighter."



Staff Sgt. Jennifer Pospisil and Sgt. Royce Adams, HHD, 509th Signal Battalion testing the NRZ cable Pospisil made. The cable was needed so that the BBN can pass 8 meg data through the Phoenix terminal; the cable before only allowed the BBN to pass 2 meg. James Womack, an ESP employee, assist the Soldiers in testing the cable before it is installed on the system.



Spc. Matthew Evans explaining to Spc. Gary Johnson how to switch from HPA 1 to HPA 2 (changing the antenna on the CMA) for monitoring purposes. Both Soldiers are from HHD, 509th Signal Battalion.



Sgt. Chad Stremovihtg and Spc. Barbara O'Grady were able to meet with Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld during his visit to Qalat. Both are from Bravo Company, 44th Signal Battalion out of Mannheim, Germany.

Photo provided by Task Force Lightning, 44th Signal Battalion

# Task Force Lightning Soldiers meet Secretary of Defense

By  
**Maj. Patrick L. Kerr**  
**Cpl. Sergey Batyrshin**

*(Task Force Lightning, 44th Signal Battalion)*

**S**oldiers from Task Force Lightning, 44th Signal Battalion, got a pleasant surprise when Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld stopped at Qalat, Afghanistan's provincial reconstruction team site. He was there to meet with local U.S. military commanders. Rumsfeld traveled to Qalat and Kandahar, Afghanistan where

he was told that security in the southeastern region of Afghanistan is improving.

U.S. Forces are training Afghan troops and working with them to support reconstruction efforts and civil affairs projects in an area near the Pakistan border where there are still clashes with remnants of the former Taliban regime.

The two Soldiers, Sgt. Chad Stremovihtg and Spc. Barbara O'Grady were able to meet with the secretary during his visit to Qalat. Both are from Bravo Company, 44th Signal Battalion out of Mannheim, Germany.

"It was an outstanding and unique opportunity to trade thoughts with Mr. Rumsfeld on the progress of Afghanistan, and what the plans of Afghanistan are," said Stremovihtg.

Stremovihtg and O'Grady comprise a two-signal Soldier team that provides voice and data communications at this remote site within the Combined Joint Task Force-76 area of operation.

Soldiers like Stremovihtg and O'Grady make up a secure commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) communications network that reaches more than 18 remote locations throughout Afghanistan.

To ensure these Soldiers were trained and ready, they received two weeks of comprehensive training on the COTS equipment just before their deployment.

44th Signal Battalion assumed this nontraditional echelons above corps mission of providing communications to SETAF, a division sized unit and its subordinate units, for Operation Enduring Freedom 6 on March 15.



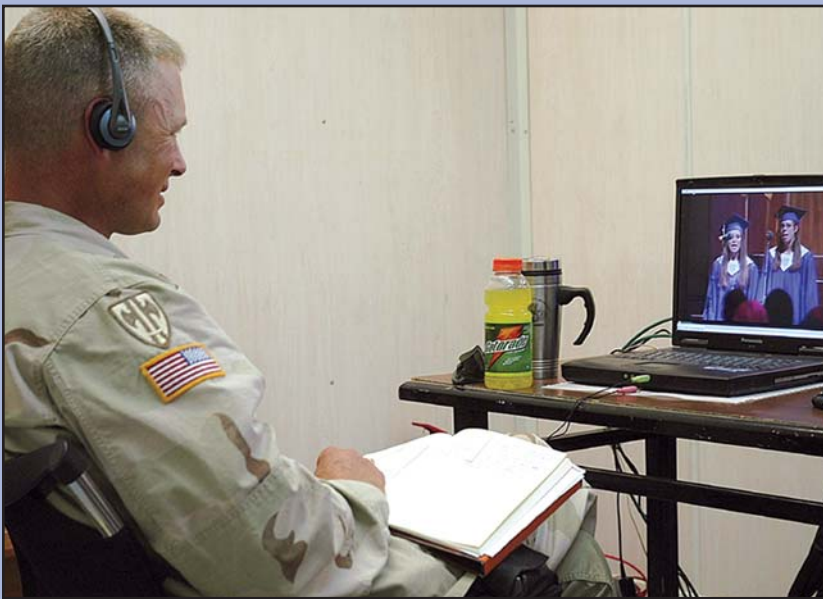


Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Lynne Seely



Photo by Monica Y. Tullos

Photo above: Members of the command center crew (standing) show DoDDS-E deputy director and staff member simultaneous graduation broadcasts.  
Photo left: 18th Military Police Brigade commander Col. James B. Brown watches from Iraq as his daughter Monica sings the U.S. national anthem at her high school graduation ceremony in Mannheim, Germany.

## High school graduations beamed worldwide

By  
**Monica Y. Tullos**

(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)

MANNHEIM, Germany -- 18th Military Police Brigade commander Col. Jim B. Brown just joined the company of hundreds of deployed Servicemembers who have been unable to attend their child's high school graduation.

It was a big day for his daughter, Monica. As the Mannheim American High School senior class president and salutatorian here, she was involved in the ceremony preparations. She and a classmate sang the U.S. national anthem. She had the honor of introducing the guest speaker, USAREUR commander Gen. B. B. Bell, and presenting gifts of appreciation.

It was a milestone the whole family will never forget thanks to the graduation broadcast initiative executed June 9-13, through a partnership between Department of Defense Dependents Schools-Europe (DoDDS-E) and USAREUR agencies and units.

"I still haven't come to grips with the fact that she will not be at home when I return (from Iraq)," said Brown. "I had no idea how significant seeing Monica's graduation would be to me."

5th Signal Command recognizes the

graduation broadcast initiative is critical to Soldier well-being. Its command center served as the nerve center for this mission, which leveraged web-based technologies and video-streaming to connect deployed USAREUR parents with graduating seniors at 19 military communities across Germany, Spain, Italy, Turkey, and the United Kingdom.

Signal battalion points of contact were posted at every site to ensure proper coordination between DoDDS-E and the contractors.

On the busiest day of the mission, known as "Super Friday" to the command center crew, ten graduations were broadcast simultaneously. Additionally, most graduating seniors with deployed parents participated in two-way video teleconferences.

"This is like a giant joint operation," said Angela G. Fobbs, G7 data networks branch chief and a project manager. "We have Marines, Air Force, Army and Navy providing support."

Fobbs, who is returning as a key player in the initiative's second year, said the project is a lot bigger than last year's as far as the number of countries and schools involved.

"We have deployed people in OIF/OEF, but we also have people in Diego Garcia, Cuba, Kurdistan and

Uzbekistan and Yemen," she said. "There has been a real challenge to coordinate the personnel side of this to make sure we find the deployed Servicemembers, offer them the opportunity to participate, and make sure they have the necessary connectivity."

"I would say that I have become intimately involved," Fobbs said. "All these people are near and dear to my heart."

43rd Signal Battalion commander Lt. Col. Philip A. Hoyle was tasked with the responsibility to oversee the mission under 2nd Signal Brigade here. He noted the impact of the initiative on secondary audiences, saying that the initiative not only shows that the Army does take care of military families, but also benefits all the folks back home that cannot make the trip to Europe to see their family member graduate.

At the end of the graduations, website hits amounted to 2,750 live viewers and 4,313 on-demand viewers.

Speaking on the sacrifice of missing attending his daughter's graduation in person, Brown recalled the events of September 11.

"We are continuing to fight and win the war that our enemies started. Monica's high school graduation is about the future - a future filled with hope," he said.

"This is the service and sacrifice that I have been called to - missing events like this are the costs, but the blessings of freedom for our children, our country and our world are worth the sacrifices which we Soldiers must make in order to secure them."

# Accredited MOS training in war zone a first

By  
**Command Sgt. Maj. Ray Lane**  
(Command Group, 160th Signal Brigade)

For the first time ever, U.S. Army Signal Soldiers received credited military occupational specialty (MOS) training in a war zone. The 21 Soldiers from the 319th Signal Battalion, deployed from California, graduated from the satellite operators (25S) course at Camp Virginia, Kuwait. They were assigned to the 160th Signal Brigade.

"Many people worked hard to get the training imported to theater so the 319th could receive the training," said Command Sgt. Maj. Paul A. Belanger, command sergeant major, 319th Signal Battalion. "However, without the foresight, drive, and leadership of Big. Gen. Donna L. Dacier, commander, 311th Theater Signal Command, and Col. John Wilcox, commander, 160th Signal Brigade, the training would not have taken place."

Although the training was focused on today's fight, it will set the 319th Signal Battalion up for an easy transition. It is going from traditional echelons above corps signal battalion to the new structure known as an integrated theater signal bat-

talion (ITBS) on its return to the U.S.

According to Belanger, the 319th will undergo a transition to the ITSB in the next fiscal year. He said one of the biggest changes is the influx of 25S MOS into the modification table of organization and equipment (MTOE) the unit did not have in the past. He expects the MTOE to change shortly after that to reflect the new battalion mission.

"Duty military occupational skill qualified Soldiers in the new MTOE would have been difficult because of the time the 25S school takes to train new operators. With the MOS school given in theater, the battalion now has 19 qualified 25S trained personnel to act as a nucleus for the new ITSB structure. With these trained personnel in place, the battalion is in a good position to complete the transition to ITSB quickly and efficiently," said Belanger.

The course included about 50 days of classroom and hands-on training. Two honor graduates and one distinguished graduate were recognized during a formal graduation ceremony held on Camp Virginia by the chief instructor, Master Sgt. Larry Long and his six assistants.

Long was asked how he and the other instructors felt about teaching the course in

a combat zone. "First, we were proud to make a further contribution to the Global War on Terrorism. Second, if the Army asked us to, we would go to Hell on a moment's notice," said Long.

"The students were motivated, excellent morale; they did much better than expected," said Sgt. 1st Class David Croft, instructor.

A big thank you was given to the instructors in the form of certificates of appreciation and open invitations to return to theater. Other instructors included Master Sgt. Thomas Murphy, Sgt. 1st Class Steven Gray, Sgt. 1st Class Sharon Kelligan, Staff Sgt. Christopher Wilcox, and Staff Sgt. Byron McDonald.

Current ITSB design is the foundation for future Signal Corps. Using a new modular concept that incorporates the full spectrum of signal support, the ITSB can be more mission specific because of the ability to task organize based on wire and cable, switching, TROPO, and satellite requirements. The ITSB with legacy systems will spiral into Warfighter Information Network - Tactical (WIN-T) and the Army future combat systems architectures.

The 319th Signal Battalion, under the 311th Theater Signal Command will be one of the first units to make the change. On completion of fielding, the ITSB is capable of supporting three major headquarters, with 1,000 telephones, 500 computers, and 250 video-teleconferencing capabilities.

## Deploying unit trains at 'Unified Endeavor'

By  
**1st Lt. Drew Abell**  
**Cpl. Sergey Batyrshin**  
(44th Signal Battalion)

Soldiers from 44th Signal Battalion's Task Force Lightning Battle Command Center (BCC) took part in an exercise in Grafenwöhr, Germany called Unified Endeavor (UE).

The exercise, which took place in January, was designed to prepare them to deploy to Operation Enduring Freedom 04-06 as part of SETAF's Joint Task Force 76 (JTF76).

UE tested the ability of the brigade and battalion command and control (C2) units to react to a wide spectrum of situations that may occur in combat.

JTF76 is composed of many units that act as the signal battalion for the task force. Units include SETAF and its associated units, parts of the 82nd Airborne Division, 12th Aviation Brigade, and the 44th Signal Battalion with parts of the 509th Signal Battalion.

Overall, the 44th Signal Battalion BCC reacted decisively and

quickly to all scenarios. Teamwork was the key to handling more than 50 different outlined plots that were in play throughout UE, according to observer controllers at the exercise.

Teamwork among all 10 sections of the BCC was superb.

"Effective staff coordination, working good with higher command, and enthusiastic personnel all made for an outstanding operation that prepared Soldiers to deploy," said Capt. Dan Burns and Capt. Kevin Craw, observer controllers responsible for documenting and evaluating 44th Signal Battalion's BCC actions in reaction to the operations.

The exercise proved to be a valuable learning tool for C2 teams.

"Unified Endeavor was a capstone exercise for an intensive training program over the past six months," said Lt. Col. Mark Churchwell, commander, 44th Signal Battalion. "It confirmed that we are trained and ready to deploy and conduct our combat mission," he added.

Coming out of this exercise, the BCC stands ready to react to any situation, anytime, anywhere.



# CBBT takes Soldiers out of comfort zone to hone skills

By  
**Command Sgt. Maj. James T. Lester**  
**Maj. Thomas H. Folse**  
(Command Goup, 39th Signal Battalion)

The Signal Corps, especially operational-base communications units, have historically had a difficult time with collective training and focusing its noncommissioned officers (NCOs) on the plans, resources, and evaluation phases of collective training. The 39th Signal Battalion has created a new and innovative method to resolve this. The Commo Best-By-Test (CBBT),

developed by senior NCOs of the battalion, is a competitive way to exercise the unit's Soldiers and junior NCOs through a multiphase, well-planned event. The end-state of the competition is to match each company's Soldiers and leaders against one another in competition.

The CBBT consists of two phases. The first phase is a written exam, covering the specific knowledge areas chosen for that competition, and the second is hands-on performance in those same skill sets.

According to Capt. David J. Mulack, commander, 128th Signal Company, "The

CBBT builds on the lessons learned from previous competitions. Therefore, the end-state is to produce a better educated signal Soldier who knows vital communications skills and is able to deploy, fight and win on the modern battlefield."

The battalion recently finished CBBT-III in December 2004, which consisted of six training events in network operations (NETOPS), telecommunications, electronics, communications security (COMSEC), information assurance (IA), and satellite communications (SATCOM). According to Sgt. 1st Class Robert A. Hudson, the headquarters detachment sergeant, "This particular CBBT is designed to focus on a wide range of communications skills to take the Soldiers out of their comfort zone. It test them in tasks which are not usually part of their basic military occupational specialty." To better prepare the Soldiers and NCOs for the competition, senior NCOs developed many classes, hands-on training exercises, and a graphic training aid (GTA) game board.

In the spirit of the competition, participants designed a streamer for displaying on the winning company's guidon, giving bragging rights throughout the battalion for six months. The 128th Signal Company won the most recent event. Command Sgt. Maj. Donna K. Mitchell, command sergeant major, 5th Signal Command, was on hand to visit the training and award the CBBT streamer.



Staff Sgt. Michael S. Landers from the Communications Liaison Cell, 128th Signal Company, provides testing on the OHM meter during the Commo Best-By-Test.

Photo provided by 39th Signal Battalion

## — FRG

*continued from page 27*

separation time productively. Before deployment it can help reassure the family that everything is in order.

"Through hard work and willingness to reach out to people, each FRG can be a big (success). People want to be involved, and people want to be informed. You just need to reach out to them," said Wellein.

"We all love our Soldiers and that is a commonality we share. (FRGs) are a bunch of people who have pulled together for a common goal. Reach out! Leave no family member behind."

**A 44th Signal Battalion Soldier says goodbye to family before deploying to Operation Enduring Freedom 6.**



Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Brandon Jenkins

# Signal Soldiers provide support for Juniper Cobra

By  
**Maj. Dwight R. Morgan**

(G3, 5th Signal Command)

**1st Lt. Scott D. Rippee**

(44th Signal Battalion)

**S**oldiers from the 5th Signal Command and 44th Signal Battalion recently deployed to Israel to conduct joint exercises with the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF).

Code-named "Juniper Cobra," the event is a biannual joint exercise that underscores the U.S. military and IDF cooperation in planning and carrying out a combined U.S.-Israeli defensive operation against a ballistic missile threat.

Supporting Joint Task Force Cobra (JTF Cobra), Company C, 44th Signal Battalion deployed a data communications package - tactical (DCP-T) team to provide communications.

The package included Nonsecure and Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNET) (SIPRNET), defense switched network (DSN), video-telecon-

ferencing (VTC), and a Defense Red Switch Network (DRSN) suite. Previous exercises lacked the ability to share secure information over a network; however, for Juniper Cobra 2005, a network called coalition network (CNET) would be built. The CNET was a closed, secure network that both U.S. and Israeli military personnel used to share data during the exercise.

"The reliability of the CNET exceeded all expectations and became many of the staff cells' primary means of communications," said Maj. Michael A. Chandanais.

5th Signal Command deployed a network and information management office (network-IMO) team of six Soldiers to build and maintain a wide area network (WAN) consisting of nine local area networks (LANs) spread over seven base camps for Juniper Cobra.

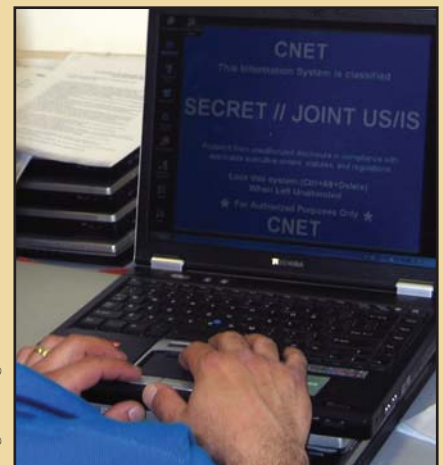
The NIPRNET and DSN lines provided by the 44th Signal Battalion became the lifelines for the Soldiers of the task force. Their NIPRNET connectivity and

DSN telephones lines allowed JTF Cobra the flexibility to set up a morale, welfare and recreation tent with an Internet café and telephone service, which boosted Soldiers' morale during the exercise. There were 12 computers and three telephone lines to stay in contact with family members back home.

The DCP-T team from Company C, known as "the Dirty Dozen," deployed early March to set up communications for the exercise.

"This was an opportunity for us not only to succeed as a team but to put everything that we've trained for and learned into a live operation," said Sgt. 1st Class Steven Davis, the team's non-commissioned officer in charge. "The team did an outstanding job engineering the classified network, by overcoming many obstacles to set up the network," added Master Sgt. Paulo Amado.

Combining the network-IMO and Company C's DCP-T teams provided JTF Cobra communications that enabled the Juniper Cobra exercise to carry out all its mission objectives.



Coalition network (CNET) setup.

**Photo left:** Sgt. Alicia Luster-Terry, Hq. 5th Battalion, 7th Air Defense Artillery, accesses files from a medical database.

Photos by U.S. Army Maj. Dwight R. Morgan



# 69th Signal Battalion's NOSC trains for mobility

By  
**Charles E. Roettger**  
(NOSC, 69th Signal Battalion)

**M**onitoring and performing analysis on the networks seem like a normal day-to-day mission for the 69th Signal Battalion's Network Operations and Security Center (NOSC). But, when you take the show on the road, it becomes a different story.

The primary mission is to provide network management and control for its area of responsibility. This is normally performed from a dedicated facility designed for the mission requirements. However, in the case of an emergency, it can be required to relocate with or without all of its equipment.

To test its continuity of operations plan (COOP), the NOSC planned a deployment to Grafenwöhr, Germany to support the Southern European Task Force's (SETAF) Lion Challenge 05-1. To make the test more of a challenge, a deployable communications package - strategic (DCP-S) was added to the equation.

"The goal was to relocate the NOSC to any location and, with proper coordination, still execute its mission," stated Maj. Willie J. Locke III, the battalion S3.

The COOP initialized and the convoy began. After arriving, equipment was unloaded and the DCP-S brought online. Connectivity for the LandWarNet-Unclassified (LWN-U) and Classified (LWN-C), and network-monitoring tools for controllers were established.

1st Lt. Benjamin Baughman commented that "initial DCP-S bandwidth was an issue; however, once the ISDN connectivity was bumped up, it became much easier to perform the mission."

Execution of the COOP was not the only test during this exercise. Due to video-teleconference (VTC) equipment failure and an unrelated security event, network isolation jeopardized the exercise. The NOSC dispatched teams to install a deployable VTC package and a LWN-C node extension. Both suites remained in operation through the remainder of the exercise to prevent service isolation.

At the end of the exercise the NOSC handed off operations to the rear detachment, loaded up the equipment and headed home. Not only did it execute a successful, 13-day COOP from behind a deployable package, the team was also able to provide additional abilities to exercise participants that otherwise would not have been available.

# Soldiers and civilians train for network software transition

By  
**Tyron Merrell**  
(52nd Signal Battalion)

**F**oundry's IronView Network Manager enables today's networks to run at maximum efficiency, allowing network operators to track, configure changes, and update software. It also identifies and resolves network failures. Recently, Sergeant's Time Training in the 52nd Signal Battalion was an IronView overview.

Tyron Merrell and Mitch Haddadi are network analysts assigned to the 52nd Signal Battalion Network Operations and Security Center (NOSC), and informal instructors for NOSC personnel. Both, with extensive experience in network monitoring, administration and security often lead the weekly training.

Expecting the release of IronView software to 5th Signal Command's NOSC and network service centers (NSC), Foundry's product was selected for recent training.

"With this overview of IronView capability and processes, together with basic network monitoring requirements and troubleshooting steps, our assigned personnel will have a better understanding of the software," said Alan Tripp, NOSC chief. This knowledge allows the NOSC to continue operating in an efficient manner during software transition.

It may also decrease the learning curve for future IronView classes.

Civilians assigned to the NOSC also participate in these weekly training sessions that cover such topics as information assurance, information assurance vulnerability alerts (IAVAs), troubleshooting serial lines, Ethernet interfaces, malicious software, IP routing, transmission control protocol/Internet protocol (TCP/IP) and firewall basics.

With this in-house training, the 52nd Signal Battalion is ready to bring it on board.



**Tyron Merrell, network analyst, 52nd Signal Battalion instructs Network Operations and Security Center Soldiers during an overview class of Foundry's IronView Network Manager software.**

Photo provided by 52nd Signal Battalion

# Surviving the battlefield

## Dragon Warriors train for high-stress environments

By

**Sgt. 1st Class Steven Goodson**  
(S3, 43rd Signal Battalion)

The battalion commander's intent was clear: prepare the Soldiers of the 43rd Signal Battalion to respond to enemy contact. Employ organic and nonorganic weapons systems, and survive on the battlefield. Command Sgt. Maj. David Fleming, the battalion command sergeant major, tasked the S3 with engineering realistic training.

"This will be a great opportunity to uphold the Warrior Ethos in an operational signal battalion," said Fleming.

The result was a four-phased exercise: reflexive fire training, advanced close-quarters shooting ability (ACQM) training, convoy operations, and a convoy live-fire exercise.

The battalion conducted ACQM with B Company, 10th Special Forces Group. With senior noncommissioned officers (NCOs) present, the training was realistic and challenging. Sgt. 1st Class Robert G. Ruvalcaba of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment noted, "The weapons training is the most informative and dynamic marksmanship training I've received in my career." The ACQM set up a baseline of skills necessary for the senior NCOs to work as the core of the resulting training events.

The Seventh Army Training Command in Grafenwöhr, Germany, and the Center for Army Lessons Learned at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas provided valuable information about the types of scenarios that Soldiers could face in Afghanistan and Iraq. This information significantly contributed to developing the training plan. With their advice in mind, tasks selected for the convoy live-fire exercise were (1) react to ambush (road not blocked), (2) react to a mine strike, and (3) react to indirect fire.

The 43rd had only two days to qualify on the convoy live-fire range. To do this,



Sgt. 1st Class Steven Goodson demonstrates proper muzzle discipline while in close quarters training at Grafenwoehr, Germany.



A Special Forces trainer demonstrates engaging a target while on the move at Grafenwöhr training area.

the companies dedicated themselves to preparatory training. They began with dry-firing and convoy exercises in the company areas during Sergeant's Time and during weapons qualification. After arrival at Grafenwöhr, they conducted weapons familiarization drills, controlled reflexive fire drills, and dry- and wet-fire iterations from vehicles before finishing

with the convoy live fire.

The success of this exercise left Soldiers better trained for high-stress environments. It gave leaders and Soldiers more confidence in basic combat skills and made them more adept at integrating and synchronizing weapons, ensuring survivability on the battlefield.

Photos provided by 43rd Signal Battalion





Photos provided by 72nd Signal Battalion

## Soldiers train in Modern Army Combative fighting

By  
**William Triplett**

(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)

U.S. Army's Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker has stated, "We need to increase combative training. This training should migrate throughout the force, not just initial entry training. We need to develop common, practical, universal combat-ives."

His intent is for every Soldier to experience the physical and emotional demands of hand-to-hand fighting before engaging in combat.

Maj. Shawn Wells, S3, 72nd Signal Battalion, wanted to see if battalion Soldiers were ready to live up to the Army's chief of staff guidance, as well as the battalion's motto, 'Always fit to fight.'

58 Soldiers who had already qualified on their weapons were selected for the 12 hours of hand-to-hand combat. The course was taught by two professional no-holds-barred cage fighters, 2nd Lt. Christine Van Fleet, 72nd Signal Battalion and husband Steve. Each holds a level-three Modern Army Combatives instructor certification, the highest level. Steve also holds blackbelts in several martial arts.

"The defining characteristic of a warrior is the willingness to close with the enemy," Sgt. 1st Class (Ret) Matt Larson, founder of the Modern Army Combatives program and author of FM 3-25.150.

"To fully embrace the Warrior Ethos, one must learn the basics of becoming a Soldier. Today the Soldiers of the 72nd have received Level I Combative Training in preparation to fight terrorism



Above left: Instructor Steve Van Fleet demonstrates bent armlock position.

Above right: Soldiers fight for a winning position.

head on and in necessary hand to hand," said Wells.

By the end of 72nd's Range Week Combatives Course, every Soldier had fought one on one with each of the participants. Every Soldier knew who would fight to win and who would just curl up and try not to lose before the whistle blew.

"Hand-to-hand combat training is a fundamental building block to prepare for current and future military operations. This means a Soldier must be prepared to use different levels of physical force in uncertain environments," said 1st Sgt. Derrick White, 72nd Signal Battalion.

Combative training has proven to be a low-cost, safe, and effective way to make each Soldier an "Army of One." And the Soldiers love it.



2nd Lt. Christine Van Fleet explains options to Col. Michael Thorne from his position of advantage (Maj. Shawn Wells is on bottom).



Soldiers locked in a fighting position where either can finish the opponent.



# Summer Safety Kicks off

By  
**William Triplett**

(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)

**B**rig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett, commander, 5th Signal Command and senior mission commander for Mannheim called for all tenant organizations within the community to come out for the 'Summer Safety Showdown' Day May 24. The semiannual spectacle event kicked off the beginning of summer safety awareness for Soldiers, civilians and family members in Mannheim. AFN Radio and TV Heidelberg were on hand to broadcast live throughout the European theater.

The Jeopardy-style game show team competition took place inside the Schuh Theater, and as in the past with many prizes. This year the the 1-214th Aviation Regiment took first place. 44th Signal Battalion took second place with HHC, 7th Signal Brigade coming in third.

Door prizes included three trips that were up for grabs for lucky winners this year. Enjoy Tours gave a three-country trip (Germany, Austria, and Switzerland), including one overnight, for one person. AFRC gave a one weekend for two at the Edelweiss Lodge and Resort, in Garmisch-Partenkirchen. The USO Rhein-Neckar Region reserved two seat on any Paris Express Tour.

Other door prizes included AAFES gift cards for \$25, \$50, and \$75. An AFRC gift card for \$50 was also in the pot. DECA gave a \$100 certificate for groceries shopping, and there was also a

\$100 savings bond as well as €100 given away.

Some of the outside events for this year included a seatbelt convincer and car rollover simulator, drunken driving simulator, and an emergency car extraction demonstration.

Sgt. Pamela Palagar from the 181st Transportation Battalion tested the drunken driving simulator with remote control car.

"I had to navigate around obstacles while wearing goggles that gave you the feeling of being drunk. Losing my perception and depth, I crashed into the side of objects. I didn't have much control. It gives you an idea of what happens when you drive drunk," said Palagar.

The seatbelt convincer and car rollover simulator made believers out of those testing it.

"You get a definite appreciation of how the seatbelts work. I was sitting in the driver's seat and the steering wheel didn't help. If I didn't have the seatbelt on I would have gone through the windshield. I have never been in a car accident before and now I have a great appreciation for the seatbelt," said Sgt. Michael Cooper, HHC, 5th Signal Command.

"With Memorial Day coming up it was a great opportunity for Soldiers to see how important it is to wear a safety belt while in a car. When you are upside down you are disoriented and if we didn't have our seatbelts on we could have easily gone through the windshield of that car," added 1st. Sgt. John Womble, 5th Signal Command.

The sobriety test with the so-called beer goggles was another convincer as Soldiers and civilians tried to walk a straight line.

Capt. Armando Kuppinger, 181st Transportation Battalion, found walking a straight line was not easy.



**Capt. Armando Kuppinger** tries to walk a straight line using beer goggles.



The U.S. Army Fire Services Mannheim demonstrates cutting the wrecked car top off with the "Jaws of Life" to rescue victim.

"I failed hard, I couldn't keep my balance and I kept falling over. It should help Soldiers going through because I wouldn't want to go through a field sobriety test if I was drunk now."

The climax was a crash demonstration, with a car dropped from a crane to simulate a 40 Km/h (about 26 Mph) crash. Afterwards the military fire department used the 'Jaws of Life' to cut the top from the car to rescue the person inside (a dummy was used to simulate a person).



**44th Signal Battalion and 1-214th Aviation Regiment** celebrate their team victories.

Photos by U.S. Army Sgt. Anissa Soto-Feliciano





Children enjoy jumping around on inflated floors at the indoor playground.

Photo provided by MVV Energie AG

# Families 'jump' for fun day at Ladenburg's indoor playground

By  
**Jozsef Wetzl**

*(Command Group, 5th Signal Command)*

**M**ore than 100 family members from the Mannheim military community accepted an invitation to an afternoon of fun and games at the Ladenburg JumpInn indoor playground. The official host, MVV Energie AG, extended an open invitation to families of deployed Soldiers to show its solidarity and support for the families in the U.S. military community.

When the MVV buses arrived at the pick-up points they were met by many young children and some parents who were ready to have a good time. After the 20-minute trip from Mannheim to Ladenburg, the group arrived at the gigantic indoor playground called "JumpInn." Inside, after getting rid of their coats and shoes, children immediately started playing in various play areas, while the adults were welcomed by the host.

Within a short time parents were

working hard to keep track of their children, who were testing one play area after the other. Areas most popular with the young visitors were the inflated "exotic island" ideal for bouncing up and down, and a large multilevel maze with tunnels to explore.

The clown hired to entertain the children, who wanted to catch their breath between high-energy activities, had his hands full.

This enthusiastic and fascinated young audience kept him busy with special requests to form flowers, swords and other items from colorful balloons.

After a snack with pizza and hot dogs galore, Santa Claus paid a surprise visit and pre-

sented a small gift to children and parents as a souvenir of this special afternoon.

The following weekend, the MVV Energie AG also hosted a hike in the Palatinate Forest for its American guests. It was to give them the opportunity to learn about the history and culture of the Palatinate region.



A clown is kept busy by children waiting for him to blow and form more balloons.

# Connecting to history

*U.S. Army community  
in Mannheim recog-  
nizes switchboard  
operator who helped  
bring peaceful end to  
World War II*

**Story and photo by  
Staff Sgt. Peter Fitzgerald**

*(Public Affairs Office, 7th Signal Brigade)*

The footsteps of Soldiers running through Käfertal woods follow the path of history. It is here where American forces entered Mannheim in 1945 and eventually took the city in the last days of World War II. In unprecedented fashion, the peaceful surrender of Mannheim was negotiated by telephone between U.S. Soldiers occupying the Käfertal waterworks and a few German civilians. It marked the first time a city surrendered by telephone. Since that historic connection, Mannheim has become symbolic of German-American friendship and a fitting home for U.S. signal units.

Playing a key role in those events was Gretje Ahlrichs, then a 27-year-old city employee who worked the telephone switchboard during the negotiations. In a March 29 ceremony, Ahlrichs was recognized by the city works of Mannheim (MVV) and the U.S. Army on the 60th anniversary of those events.

"Frau Ahlrichs is an incredible lady," says Col. Stephen Walker, deputy commander, 5th Signal Command. "I highly praise the MVV for their acknowledgment of her accomplishments and life."

Walker, who attended the ceremony at the Käfertal waterworks, adds that Ahlrichs was "exactly the right kind of person" for that time. "(She's) full of life...not a bit of quit in her."

Now 87, Ahlrichs remains modest about her role in the negotiations -- negotiations that inevitably saved lives and prevented further destruction to Mannheim.

"I just did my job," she explains. "I was afraid, but they asked me to stay (and work the telephone lines)."

Despite being only a substitute switchboard operator, Ahlrichs happened to find herself performing this vital role in Mannheim's hour of need. Born in northern Germany near the Dutch border, Ahlrichs came to the city in 1939 and began a job for the local public works. She remembers her first day at work well because she was given the following day off.

"I started working April 19, 1939," she recollects. "We had the next day off because it was Hitler's birthday."

Ahlrichs eventually began working on weekends as a substitute switchboard operator so she could have more time off during the week to visit her daughter, who remained with relatives in northern Germany. In this age of mobile phones and modern communications technology, Ahlrichs recalls the old plug-in and pull-out type of switchboard she had to operate during the war.

"It was simple, but it worked," she says.

As the war progressed, however, fewer things continued to work in Mannheim, including most of the city's telephone lines. By the spring of 1945, nearly two thirds of the population had fled the city as Mannheim and many of the surrounding communities were

besieged by relentless air attacks.

"It was very bad," Ahlrichs recalls. "They were at night. The sirens sounded and people would head to bunkers or cellars. You felt helpless."

Along with the aerial bombardment, the advance of ground forces brought artillery fire to Mannheim. When units of the 44th Infantry Division arrived in March of 1945 they proceeded to occupy the Käfertal waterworks, a part of the public works system of greater Mannheim. From there, they tried to initiate surrender talks with German forces. At the time, Maj. Don S. Matthews was the operations officer for the 933rd Field Artillery Battalion, the unit that went into Mannheim under the 44th Infantry Division. According to archive reports, Matthews tried unsuccessfully to negotiate a surrender with the German military







**At her home in downtown Mannheim, Gretje Ahlrichs reflects on the war. Her actions 60 years ago helped bring about a peaceful surrender of the city to American forces.**

forces in the area. When a cease fire attempt was met with gunfire, American forces resumed their barrage of artillery fire. Under the heavy barrage, German forces withdrew from Mannheim March 28 --leaving the fate of the city in the hands of a few remaining citizens.

One of those citizens was Nikolaus Quintus, a senior administrative official at the city public works. Because of the refusal of the German military to negotiate (and their eventual withdrawal), it fell to Quintus to speak for the city of Mannheim. With the help of Capt. Franz Steinitz, a German-speaking military surgeon with the 933rd Field Artillery Battalion, and Heinrich Friedman, the manager of the Käfertal waterworks, Matthews was able to negotiate with Quintus on the city's only remaining telephone line.

Ahlrichs, who worked the switchboard to keep that line up and running, remembers the tense discussions that took place during those days in late March. Despite her fears, she was told she had to remain at her position and keep making the connections for the two sides.

"I wanted to leave, but I was afraid of the consequences," she says. "We were told if things didn't work out then the shelling would resume."

Fortunately, things did work out. Acting on behalf of the city, Quintus was able to assure the American troops that they would be under no threat from German forces. The Americans accepted the surrender by telephone and the shelling ceased. On the morning of March 29 U.S. forces crossed the Neckar River and took control of most of Mannheim. For Ahlrichs and the others, a

sense of relief followed the surrender.

"We were happy the war was over," she says.

Soon after hostilities ended, Ahlrichs was paid a visit at her workplace by Steinitz, the interpreter during the negotiations between Matthews and Quintus. During the tense negotiations the two had spoken several times and even exchanged a few pleasantries. The Army surgeon had promised to visit the switchboard operator after the war was over, and in May of that same year he fulfilled his promise.

"It was the first time we met in person, and I was pleased to see him," recalls Ahlrichs.

In the years that followed the war, Ahlrichs continued to work for the city works until retiring in 1977. She still lives in the city she helped saved, in the same home built by her grandparents. Over the years Ahlrichs could see the development of a strong German and American friendship in Mannheim and in many communities around the country. Today it seems only fitting that Mannheim is home to some of America's most highly trained signal units. For a city whose peaceful resolution was brokered on a telephone line, the value of good communications has never been taken for granted here.

"Communication is the most important thing," Ahlrichs insists. "If that system hadn't worked, if I hadn't been at that position, then maybe Mannheim wouldn't have surrendered by telephone and they would have kept bombarding us. Maybe I wouldn't be alive today."

In recognizing her accomplishments, Walker likens her actions to those of heroic troops in battle.

"We hear about Soldiers in combat who refuse to leave till the job is done. Frau Ahlrichs is made of the same cloth. Her dedication to the mission and her job is exactly the kind of example our young communicators need today," he says.

For a former telephone switchboard operator, her advice for young people is simple.

"Talk to each other," Ahlrichs says.

# Local signal units run in Mannheim Marathon

By  
**Sgt. 1st Class Brett A. Beliveau**  
(G4, 5th Signal Command)

Soldiers and civilians from 5th Signal Command and 44th Signal Battalion comprising of six teams and one individual took part in the second annual MLP Mannheim Marathon May 21. The event, billed as a 'Twilight Marathon,' started at 6:15 p.m. at the Mannheim Wasserturm (water tower) and continued until the last person crossed the finish line well after midnight.

More than 6,300 people took part in the four disciplines -- marathon, team

marathon, inline half-marathon, and hand-bike and wheelchair marathon -- with close to 100,000 spectators looking on throughout the 26.2-mile course.

The team marathon consisted of teams with two to four runners covering the marathon distance. Out of the 660 teams competing the signal teams placed 14th, 53rd, 61st, 136th, 160th, and 185th in their categories. The winner of the team event was the Soprema Team MTG Mannheim, which is a world-class triathlon team from the area. The individual marathon had 2,234 participants. The winner in this group was Kenyan John Rotich, with 5th Signal Command's Roger Seeholzer, the

only individual competitor from the signal units, finishing 172nd.

The signal teams were supported by and wore the colors of MVV, the Mannheim utilities company.

Members of the 5th Signal Command teams shown in the photo below included Sgt. 1st Class Kendall Bean, Sgt. 1st Class Brett Beliveau, Sgt. Randel Bell, Spc. Michael Sogioka, Staff Sgt. Todd Little, Spc. Robert Hodges, Spc. Kenneth Lipson, Sgt. 1st Class, Sgt. Masiray Kanneh-Pearl, Staff Sgt. Michael Leonard, Pfc. Anthony Harden, Pfc. Allen Chestnut, Paul Avallone, Staff Sgt. Ernest Hess, Capt. Robert Sayre, and Capt. Veronica Ko. The 44th Signal Battalion runners were Capt. Luis Alvarado, 2nd Lt. Noah McDaniel, 1st Sgt. Mark McKaig, 1st Sgt. Steve Kramer, Staff Sgt. Abraham Advincula, 2nd Lt. Kody Hunter, Spc. Tavares St. Marthe, and Spc. Autumn Sword.



Signal teams pose in front of Mannheim's water tower with sponsor's banner.

Photo provided by MTV Energie AG



# 52nd Signal Battalion celebrates 'Warrior Day'

By  
**Maj. Mary Campbell**  
(S3, 52nd Signal Battalion)

**V**eteran's Day in the United States is celebrated on November 11. Thanks to its partnership with the reservist unit Kriesgruppe Donau-Iller, the 52nd Signal Battalion was able to celebrate the German version this year in Emerkingen, south of Ulm.

The 52nd was honored to be a part of the commemoration for a second year in a row. The battalion sent 40 Soldiers, including its command group, a color guard, and a company-sized unit.

Even the cold weather could not dispel the warmth U.S. Soldiers felt from the onlookers. During the Warrior Day events, the battalion marched through the town alongside its partnership unit from the town hall to the church in the center of town. The Kriesgruppe Donau-Iller carried its vintage flag from 1871 in the ceremony. The town mayor included English translations of the remarks to ensure all participants understood the importance of this day. The major theme of this year's Warrior Day was the 60th Anniversary of the end of World War II. It focused on the many changes over the last 60 years to allow such a partnership between the Kriesgruppe Donau-Iller and the 52nd Signal Battalion.

The 52nd Signal Battalion exchanged scrolls with the reservist group Kriesgruppe Donau-Iller in 2004.

"We have both enjoyed and benefited from the partnership since we officially partnered in 2003," said Maj. Wendy Rivers, the battalion executive officer. The battalion continues to develop close ties with its German friends, having some type of exchange monthly. Six Soldiers were sent to a German field-training exercise (FTX) in February and more took part in the May exercise.

The May FTX ended with the battalion participating in an Emerkingen parade to celebrate the town's 1200th anniversary. Lt. Col. John K. Bueckens, commander of the 52nd said, "The 52nd

Signal Battalion looks forward to a long and enduring friendship with its German partnership unit, its officers, Soldiers, and families."



The 52nd Signal Battalion marched in the Saturday morning parade Jan. 8 in Emerkingen, Germany to commemorate 'Warrior Day' with the town and the battalion's partnership unit, Kriesgruppe Donau-Iller. The battalion was led by Lt. Col. John K. Bueckens, commander, 52nd Signal Battalion, his command staff, the color guard, and a company-sized formation, composed mainly of the 587th Signal Company Soldiers.



Kriesgruppe Donau-Iller, a German reservist group, marches past 52nd Signal Battalion's command group and color guard during Warrior Day commemoration parade Jan. 8, in Emerkingen, Germany.

Photos provided by 52nd Signal Battalion





Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Amissa Soto-Feliciano

Col. Jennifer Napper (front), commander, 7th Signal Brigade stands with staff in formation for their welcome home ceremony Feb. 22.

# Community welcomes home “Voice of Freedom” warriors

By  
Staff Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee  
(Public Affairs Office, 7th Signal Brigade)

MANNHEIM, Germany -- A welcome home ceremony for Soldiers of the 7th Signal Brigade was held Feb. 22 on Funari Barracks’ parade field.

The ceremony honored the more than 390 ‘Voice of Freedom’ warriors who deployed in support of the Global War on Terrorism from Jan. to Nov. 2004.

While deployed, the brigade played a

critical role in the transition of the tactical communications network to an operational base network.

The Soldiers returned from their deployment Nov. 28, 2004 to eagerly awaiting family and friends.

Before returning, they handed over the mission to the 160th Signal Brigade.

This welcome home ceremony allowed the community to show its support to the brigade for completing a safe and successful mission.

A retreat ceremony followed the welcome home ceremony.



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee

Mannheim’s Lord Mayor Gehardt Widder thanks the Americans for their service and welcomed the Soldiers back home.



Photo by U.S. Army Spec. Brandon Jenkins



Photos by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee

Top photo: The U.S. Army Band Europe provides music for the welcome home ceremony.

Photo left: Cannoneers from the 529th Military Police Company prepare to fire cannons.



# "Voice of Freedom" brigade changes commanders

By  
**Lt. Col. Steven Coles**

(Deputy Commander, 7th Signal Brigade)

MANNHEIM, Germany - Soldiers, civilians and guests of the 7th Signal Brigade welcomed a new brigade commander under clear skies and warm weather at a change-of-command ceremony on Taylor Barracks April 6.

The change of command was a silent ceremony. Commands to the units on the field were given using wig-wags or semaphores. Semaphores are signal Soldiers' branch insignia and were invented by Dr. Albert Meyer, the first U.S. Army signal officer.

"The event was very impressive," said Sandra Nething, 7th Signal Brigade's administrative assistant. "I have attended several other events in the past, but none

as visually appealing as this."

Col. Mike Thorne took over leadership of the brigade from Col. Jennifer Napper, who served as the "Voice of Freedom" brigade commander for just over two years. She now moves on to the Joint Staff at the Pentagon.

Napper bid her final farewell to the unit by saying, "I am proud of each and every one of you for always accomplishing the mission that many doubted you could, for your continued service in this Global War on Terrorism, and for your love of your fellow Soldiers, your leaders and your country."

Thorne comes to the brigade from the CIS Coordination Center Iraq where he was division chief and director.

"I am proud, humbled, and honored to assume command of the 7th Signal Brigade today," he said dur-

ing the change of command. "Proud because this is the culmination of the efforts of many Soldiers to prepare me for command; humbled to join a unit with a great tradition of mission accomplishment ... and honored ... to lead this great unit."

Thorne takes command of the brigade during a period of heavy transitions but looks forward to the challenging position as brigade commander. However, he is no stranger to Germany; his prior European assignments include 8th Signal Battalion in Bad Kreuznach, V Corps in Heidelberg, and 22nd Signal Brigade in Darmstadt.

Thorne is married to the former Senita Dearing and has a son, Jason, and a daughter, Sarah.



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Anissa Soto-Feliciano

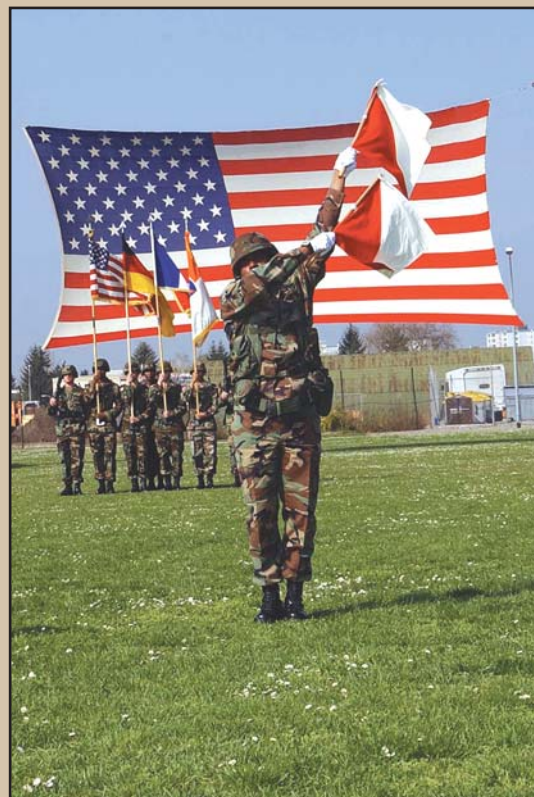


Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Nicole Blakeslee

Top photo: Staff Sgt. Marcus Mustin, Company C, 72nd Signal Battalion, used semaphores to give commands to the units on the field.

Photo left: Brig. Gen. Carroll F. Pollett passes brigade colors to Col. Mike Thorne and charges him with the responsibilities as the new brigade commander.



Photo left: from l-r, Sgt. Humberto G. Maldonado, 11th Sig. Det.; Lt. Gen. Claude V. Christianson, deputy chief of staff G4; and Staff Sgt. Leslie A. Ambe, 11th Sig. Det.



Photo right: In front from l-r, Lt. Gen. Claude V. Christianson, deputy chief of staff G4; Gerd Drechsler, 6981st CSG, and Gen. Richard A. Cody, vice chief of staff, Army. In the background are awards handlers from the Old Guard.

Photos provided by 11th Signal Detachment

# Achieving maintenance excellence

By  
**Ken Wycoff**  
(S4, 2nd Signal Brigade)

The Army Award for Maintenance Excellence (AAME) final results were announced and there is great news for the 6981st Civilian Support Group (CSG) as they were selected as runner-up in their category. Additionally the 11th Signal Detachment was recognized as third place winner in its category.

2nd Signal Brigade units graduated to the Department of the Army (DA) finals for the fiscal year 2004 competition. The 11th Signal Detachment and the 6981st CSG were selected as DA semi-finalists for the AAME and received an on-site inspection from a DA evaluation team.

The 11th Signal Detachment is no stranger to this prestigious competition as it was last year's first-place winner in the modification table of organization and

equipment in the small category. On the other hand, this was the first time the 6981st CSG competed at DA level. It competed in the table of distribution and allowances in the small category. This in itself was a great achievement as both units were among the final four units in

the entire Army for their respective categories.

To achieve this standing, they competed against 17 other major commands. Gerd Drechsler, commander of the 6981st CSG, said, "This competition can only make our unit better and we are all honored to be selected as a DA finalist."

Chief Warrant Officer Joseph Guevara, communications security maintenance officer in charge, 11th Signal Detachment, summed it up by saying, "Competing and winning this award takes a lot of personal dedication and pride in your unit. The 11th Signal Detachment is full of these types of Soldiers and civilians."

Selected members from the 6981st and the 11th Signal Detachment flew to Washington, D.C., to receive the prestigious AAME award from the Army chief of staff May 19.



From l-r, Capt. Sirianosac Thepsoumane, Staff Sgt. Leslie A. Ambe, Sgt. Humberto G. Maldonado, Gerd Drechsler, and Manfred Preuss pose with awards after ceremony.



# USAREUR civilian recognized, named Army Editor of the Year

## A USAREUR Public Affairs release

HEIDELBERG, Germany -- A 5th Signal Command employee assigned to the Office of the G6, HQ USAREUR/7A, Marcus A. Cox, has been named Army Editor of the Year.

The Army Editor of the Year is a competitive award sponsored by the U.S. Army Publishing Directorate and given once a year by the Secretary of the Army.

To compete, nominees must be assigned to a major Army command, a corps, or a division, and be responsible for editing administrative publications such as regulations and pamphlets.

The nomination must provide before-and-after samples of edited work that show what the editor did to help authors meet their intended objectives.

During the period of consideration, Cox edited 65 Army in Europe publications. Among those were the regulation that prescribes the Installation Access Control System and the regulation governing civilian deployment.

In every publication he edited, Cox ensured the publication would meet the author's intended objectives. In doing so, he enabled Soldiers and civilian employees throughout the European theater to rely on Army in Europe publications to

find clear and accurate guidance on how to carry out their missions.

On receiving word that a member of his editorial staff had won this competition, the Chief, Document Management Division, Dwayne Viergutz, said, "This is great news for Mr. Cox! It's also great news for 5th Signal Command and for HQ USAREUR/7A."

"I was surprised," Cox said. "Our boss called us all in and made an announcement. I was shocked. I don't think its recognition just of me, but of our office, and our organization. What we do here is a team effort. With the kind of work that we do, nobody is just by themselves ...

because we look out for one another."

"The demand for immediate access to policy puts enormous pressure on action officers. They don't have much time to conduct research or to write," Viergutz said. "That's where editors like Marc help. In helping authors meet their objectives through his editing, Marc ensures the intended recipients -- the Soldiers, civilians, and family members throughout Europe and downrange -- receive clear and accurate directives.

It's great to know the Secretary of the Army not only values the importance of editing, but that he places the highest value on the editing we're doing here in the G6 for the Army in Europe."

This is the 11th time the Secretary of the Army has recognized the USAREUR G6 for excellence in administrative publishing. The Secretary of the Army presented the award to Mr. Cox in a ceremony at the Pentagon on May 9.



Photo provided by Jason L. Austin

Marc Cox, publications editor, USAREUR G6, edits a document at his desk. Cox was named the Army Editor of the Year and was formally recognized by the Secretary of the Army at a ceremony in Washington on May 9.



Sgt. Masiray A. Kanneh-Peart



Pfc. Allen D. Chestnut

# 5th Signal Command honors its top Soldiers

By

**Monica Y. Tullos**

*(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)*

MANNHEIM, Germany -- 5th Signal Command's Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Year were recognized during a formal ceremony and award presentation at Schuh Theater in Benjamin Franklin Village Thursday.

Sgt. Masiray A. Kanneh-Peart and Pfc. Allen D. Chestnut, both of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, led their peers command-wide in three levels of competition to win their respective titles and roughly \$6,000 in gifts each.

Both were judged on their performances in board appearances, common task training, weapons qualification, a written essay, and Army physical fitness training.

Kanneh-Peart, a paralegal specialist reared in Md., currently serves as the noncommissioned officer in charge for the Office of the Command Judge Advocate at 5th Signal Command headquarters. She has a bachelor's in legal studies with a minor in accounting from the University of Maryland and is working on a graduate degree in management.

During her remarks Kanneh-Peart told a theater full of ceremony attendants that she was not standing before them as the command's NCO of the Year because of luck.

"I'm standing here because of my determination, because I didn't quit when I didn't win, because I got back up when I fell, because I didn't want to be overlooked, because I've had great role models and influences in my life, but mainly I'm standing here because I wanted to set an example for my son, my peers, and all soldiers," Kanneh-Peart said.

Chestnut, another Maryland native, is an administrative specialist working as a mail clerk in the command's community mail room. He is currently studying for an associate's degree in business management at the University of Maryland.

He told a captive audience that along his road to success, he learned that there are some outstanding Soldiers with knowledge and professionalism beyond their rank.

"No matter who you are or what your rank is, you can accomplish any mission, anytime, anywhere," said Chestnut.

Following their remarks, Kanneh-Peart and Chestnut were each presented

awards from a line of sponsors comprising representatives from AAFES; AFCEA Chapter 176; AIU Insurance Worldwide; DECA; Edelweiss Lodge and Resort; Ferdi Schmitz Trophies of Heidelberg; First Command Financial Planning; Headquarters, 5th Signal Command Retention; Mannheim Trophy Shop; ManTech International Corp.; Overseas Military Sales Corporation, Pentagon Car Sales; Navigant Sato Travel/Enjoy Tours; Service Credit Union; USAA; and the USO.

The ceremony also featured an original poetry recital by the command's 2nd Quarter Soldier of the Quarter, Pfc. Dana L. Moore, and brief guest remarks by 7th Army NCO Academy commandant Command Sgt. Maj. James F. Campbell.

Kanneh-Peart and Chestnut, also competed at the Network Enterprise Technology Command/9th Army Signal Command NCOY/SOY Board at Fort Huachuca, Ariz. The competition was based on performance in APFT, a written exam, an essay, M16 range, land navigation, CTT, a board appearance, and a mystery task.





Powell



Bogusat



Womble



Duhaut

U.S. Army photos

## “Civilians of the Year” equal excellence, selfless service

By  
**Monica Y. Tullos**  
*(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)*

**F**our outstanding civilians were recently announced as 5th Signal Command's Civilians of the Year.

Brian S. Powell, Hartmut L. Bogusat, Matrina D. Womble, and Eric Duhaut were selected from among nominees in their respective grade range categories.

Judging was based on factors including job complexity, consistency of excel-

lence, teamwork, initiative, and selfless service.

Each honoree will receive an Award of Achievement Medal for Civilian Service, a \$500 cash award and the commanding general's coin for excellence. Their photos will also be displayed in 'Riley Leroy Pitts Hall,' the command's headquarters building.

Powell, an electronics technician with the G7 Installation Branch, represents the General Schedule 9-13 grade range category.

Bogusat, a supervisory electronics technician at Visual Information Services Europe, represents the C6A-8 local national grade range category.

Womble, who served as the supervisor of Community Mail Room #421 at Funari Barracks, represents the GS 1-8 grade range category.

Duhaut, a transport assistant at 39th Signal Battalion, represents the C1-6 local national grade range category.

## 5th Signal Command civilian employee dies

By  
**William Triplett**  
*(Public Affairs Office, 5th Signal Command)*

MANNHEIM, Germany (April 5, 2005) - Mr. Gaston "Tony" Nance, a 5th Signal Command Department of Defense employee died at his home in Brühl (near Schwetzingen) from natural causes. Nance, 52, a native of Bladen Boro, N.C., retired as a non-commissioned officer from the Army June 1, 1992 as a telecommunications specialist with the 2nd Signal Brigade.

He has been with 5th Signal Command since Aug. 1993. He was the Chief of Visual Information in the Information Management Office under G1.

He is survived by his wife Annerose, children Annika and Steffen M. Wirth, Thomas and Silke Boose, two grandchildren Marvin and Justin Boose, a sister Kay, and two brothers, Jerald and Michael.

His memorial service was held April 9 at the Friedhof Brühl in Brühl, Germany.



Photo montage by William Triplett

# The Battle of Hürtgen Forest

By  
**1st Lt. Christopher Dimick**  
(Assistant S3, 102nd Signal Battalion)

**O**n a crisp morning this past January, members of the 102nd Signal Battalion went to the Hürtgen Forest to learn about events that took place there during World War II.

The American objective in 1944 was to secure dams on the Roer River to prevent the Germans from flooding it, and to allow access into the Rhineland. The plan was for the American Army to attack the town of Schmidt from Vossanek through the Hürtgen Forest. While walking down a narrow dirt trail, the 102nd soon realized the problems the American forces faced so long ago as they waged their battle against the German military.

"My first thought helped me to feel as though I was retracing the steps of our Soldiers so long ago," said Sgt. 1st Class Mark R. Harrington.

In the words of Maj. Gen. James Gavin, then commander of the 82nd

Airborne Division, "I learned my first lesson about the Hürtgen Forest. It could not be traversed by jeep." Gavin's words went on to describe in much detail the horrid scene of the battle that raged for two months. Both American and German warfighters paid a great price in lives for a 50-mile stretch of woods during this battle.

"It was a haunting experience and will remain in my memory for a long time to come," said Harrington, adding that the experience "made me wonder how I would have performed under these harsh conditions."

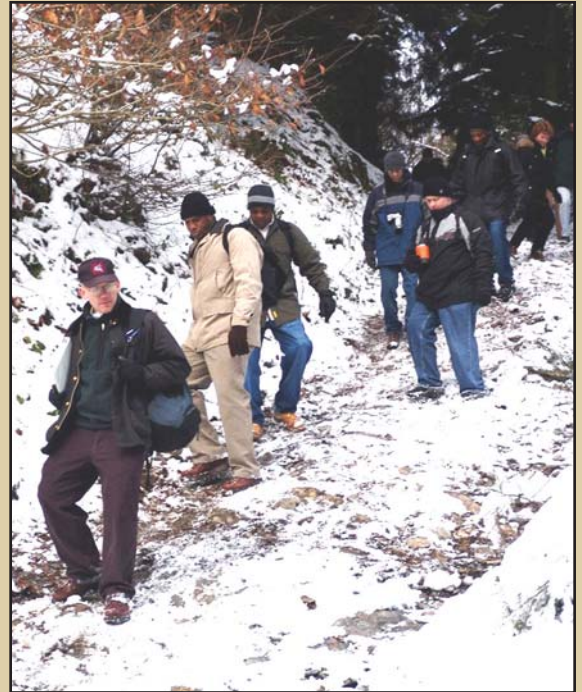
After the battle and a visit to V Corps Headquarters, Gavin stated, "I realized how remote they (the headquarters) were

**Members of the 102nd Signal Battalion retrace American Soldiers' footsteps in WW II down a narrow snow-covered trail in the Hürtgen Forest.**

from the reality of what it was like up where the battalions were."

The V Corps commander and staff were sitting around a map, making battle plans. The higher headquarters failed to do a reconnaissance of the area before the decision was made to attack through the Hürtgen Forest. This failure was the learning point of the staff ride.

Lesson learned: Always complete a reconnaissance at every level of command. Soldiers' lives depend on it.



Group poses for picture in Hürtgen Forest.

Photos by 102nd Signal Battalion





Photos by Christine Petersen

President Bush speaks to Soldiers of the 1st Armored Division in Wiesbaden, Germany.

# Signal units provide communications for president's visit

By

**Robert M. Straus**

*(NSC Wiesbaden, 102nd Signal Battalion)*

**Christine Petersen**

*(VISE Media, 2nd Signal Brigade)*

"Can you provide communications support for the president of the United States Feb. 23?" This was the call that started the ball rolling for two of 2nd Signal Brigade units. Without blinking an eye, the Wiesbaden Network Service Center (NSC), members of the 102nd

Signal Battalion, and the Visual Information Services Europe (VISE) went into overdrive. Time was of essence to meet the White House Communications Agency's (WHCA) and the 1st Armored Division (1AD) Public Affairs Office (PAO) needs.

The 102nd Signal Battalion coordinated with its outlying NSCs to get extra supplies and people, and began negotiations with the German Telekom for commercial connectivity to support the Media Operations Center (MOC). Faced with the challenge of installing connectivity into tents that had no infrastructure, the Wiesbaden Dial Central Office (DCO) installed telephone cable distribution systems to seven different locations.

In the MOC, DCO technicians and Soldiers from the battalion's Deployable Communications Package - Strategic (DCP-S) team installed more than 85 telephones for the White House Press Pool and other media. They also installed and configured network services while the 141st Signal Battalion

installed network connections and laptops to support 135 users. The battalion's Network Operations Security Center (NOSC) closely watched the network, ready to react if an outage occurred. VISE installed and managed all audiovisual equipment for the MOC. The total team communications support was such a success that the V Corps and base support battalion PAOs stated that it was the best media operations center support they had ever received.

VISE played a key role relaying TV pictures for American Forces Network (AFN) and the Pentagon Channel broadcasts. For the president's visit, the VISE TV truck was the primary conduit of broadcast signals to the media. A second system was created on the spot from parts and TV news cameras for the first lady's school visit. VISE conducted the TV broadcast from an adjacent locker room, feeding it by cable to the AFN truck where it was split to the satellite transformer and the Telekom satellite truck. Both video feeds were flawless.

It was not all work. The team of technicians stationed in the MOC had the opportunity to meet the Gatlin Brothers and Diana DeGarmo, runner-up to the television show "American Idol." James Zeigler commented, "Just wait until my daughter sees my picture taken with an American Idol."

When the president rolled out the gates of Wiesbaden Army Airfield, the 102nd Signal Battalion had installed 130 defense switched network and commercial telephones and high-speed data links. This not only provided support to the president, his staff, and the Secret Service, but also to the German and U.S. security forces. Newspapers across the world instantaneously had articles and photographs of the president's visit with the 1st Armored Division Soldiers in Wiesbaden festooned by 30 VISE produced banners and posters. VISE also provided flawless video feed of the president's and first lady's public appearances.

Dan Simmons, operations chief for VISE, said, "It was the most exciting mission I've ever supported. The entire crew enjoyed the opportunity to serve our president, the first lady, the Soldiers, and all the people that watched our broadcast throughout the world."



Alfredo Barraza, VISE Media, videotapes first lady Laura Bush at the Wiesbaden American School.



<http://5sigcmd1.hqusareur.army.mil/>